

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,
July 11, 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 May 2, 2013 meeting.

3. Public Comment

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendation: Adopt SDRC Resolution 13-04

8. San Diego River Conservancy 2014 Meeting Schedule (*ACTION*)
Review and Approve Dates

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 SCC grant for invasive non-native plant control and restoration

Recommendation: Adopt SDRC Resolution 13-05

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

10. Next Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, September 12, 2013, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Accessibility

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**
The Board will consider adoption of the **May 2, 2013**
public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **May 2, 2013** Board Meeting are
attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of May 2, 2013 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on July 11, 2013)

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Todd Gloria	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 3
Lorie Zapf	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 6 (arrived at 2:04 p.m.)
Karen Finn	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
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 (arrived 2:19 p.m.)
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ann Haddad	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board (via phone)
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

Lee Burdick	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
-------------	------------------------------------

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 March 7, 2013, meeting which was seconded by Clay Phillips and approved by the Board 8 ayes and 0 nays. (3 absent)

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.

Ben Clay announced item number 6 Ruffin Canyon Trail is being postponed. He asked if anyone would like to address the board. Seeing none he moved ahead. He thanked Ann for the event at her house to say goodbye to the former Executive Officer, Mike Nelson, and welcome the new Executive Officer, Kevin McKernan. He needs to leave by 3:00 p.m. and SDRC Vice-Chair, Ruth Hayward will chair the meeting after his departure.

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

No report.

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report (INFORMATIONAL)

No report.

6. San Diego River – Ruffin Canyon Trail and Urban Walk - POSTPONED

7. San Diego River Conservancy's Application for \$1.5 million for the San Diego River Watershed Riparian Restoration Program, a Tier 1 project outlined in the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project (INFORMATIONAL / ACTION)

Presentation and Report:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Adopt SDRC Resolution 13-03

Kevin McKernan described this as a project where SDRC is using a portion of the Proposition 84 set aside funds housed at the State Coastal Conservancy for use by the San Diego River Conservancy to remove invasive non-native plants from the San Diego River watershed. This is a large scale project. The invasive program started in 2007 and has been successful. As the Board may know SDRC is the only entity that holds watershed wide permits to do this work. These permits are a great enabling tool for SDRC as well as its partners such as non-profit groups, community groups, and local jurisdictions. We are seeking funds to target areas in the middle and upper watershed of the San Diego River.

This is a tier 1 project of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, meaning that it is permitted, ready to go and SDRC has the capacity to carry out. There are 2 potential sources of funding; both our partners at the Wildlife Conservation Board and the State Coastal Conservancy have expressed interests in supporting this project. The attached resolution authorizes the Executive Officer to enter into agreements with one or both of the entities to carry out this project and support documents were provided in the board materials. He asked if there were any questions.

Clay Phillips asked who would carry out implementation of the project.

Kevin McKernan responded that will be determined. SDRC has a biological vendor who helped SDRC obtain various permits for its invasive program. The biologist also does monitoring and reporting for SDRC as required by the permits. As for the physical removal, SDRC has worked with a number of contractors in the past and will be going through the state procurement process to do that work. SDRC

will also be enlisting our non-profit partners who have done this work in Alpine, Lakeside and around Santee.

Clay Phillips would like to add a caveat in the very brief description of the Arundo removal something about the caution about removing the biomass. In talking with researchers for the Tijuana River, they were concern about moving around the biomass, above and below ground, to other locations may cause additional spreading of the Arundo. In remote areas like we are talking about he thinks we would need to move around biomassed Arundo parts which may cause additional risks, because that is how the Arundo spreads. Ultimately it may be worth the extra money to use helicopter lifts. Arundo spreads does detach and resprouts, not seeds, by the remaining chopped up Arundo pieces.

Kevin McKernan stated that the contractors used by SDRC have done this work in the San Luis Rey River watershed and in Carlsbad which has basically eradicated Arundo there.

Lorie Zapf asked is this work is east of Mission Trails Regional Park.

Kevin McKernan responded yes. The idea of the watershed is to work from the top down and as Clay Phillips mentioned the Arundo parts can spread and resprout in other areas. SDRC has done past work at the Mission Valley Preserve and lower portions of the river. He stated that is all for naught if we are not addressing the sources up river. This is SDRC's first attempt at addressing the source from the top.

Lorie Zapf agreed and added there is a lot down at the Mission Valley Preserve. She was down there with a staff person and noticed a dense under brush and found all sorts of things like seat cushions.

Kevin McKernan said the City of San Diego's Storm Water Division has a lot of mitigation requirements for cleaning out the storm water channels and have identified places where they have to remove it. He knows Mission Valley is one of those places. SDRC is working with the City of San Diego to make sure the work they want to do does not conflict with former grants received by SDRC for invasive removal.

Gary Strawn shared with the Board his past experiences of seeing homeless encampments under the large Arundo stands east of Mission Trails Regional Park. He has had discussion with the police and deputies in the area, the deeper in and the thicker the brush, this is someone trying to hide from the authorities. The number one thing to help control the encampments along the river is to reduce the large Arundo stands and tamarisk.

Bryan Cash, Mr. Chair, he really supports this project and would like to make a motion for approval.

Ben Clay asked if there was a second.

Bryan Cash moved to approve SDRC Resolution 13-03 and was seconded by Ann Haddad, the Board unanimously approved resolution 13-03 (9-0) (2 *absent*)

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:

Helix Water District: Potential Settlement and Sale: 500+/- riparian acres *El Capitan Golf Club, LLC v. Helix Water District*)

Kevin McKernan informed the Board, there is no new information to report. Mr. Carlos Lugo, General Manager for Helix Water District was kind enough to take him and others on a tour of the property. It is an amazing place and SDRC looks forward to working with all involved for a good outcome in the future, pending a court date in October.

Proposition 40: Project Status

- **Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail**

Kevin McKernan said there was a lot of progress in the past few months thanks to Lakeside's River Park Conservancy hard work. There are just a few gaps remaining and some issues with private property and the ball fields are needed to get that portion completed.

- **Invasives Control and Restoration**

Kevin McKernan stated although SDRC is approving the grant today, there are some successes with a project that just wrapped up at Carlton Oaks Golf Course. It has been a good project with San Diego State University and others.

- **Procurement Report**

Kevin McKernan reminded the Board SDRC subscribed to a service with Planning and Conservation League Foundation to stay abreast of legislative matters in Sacramento. This is to make sure SDRC has an eye on different bills in the legislature; he brought that before the Board at the last meeting. It is a really good informational tool and all of the State Conservancies signed on for this service. One bill to watch is the State's Cap and Trade program for greenhouse gas emission that may have an effect on this body. The investment plan for those funds, created by the Department of Finance and California Air Resources Board, is up for review and Senate Bill 511 (Senator Ted Lieu). It is just out of committee and talks about having some of those funds be for existing natural resources programs. That is something he thinks the SDRC would have a good chance of getting funding since both riparian restoration for carbon sequestration and building trails reduces vehicle miles traveled which in turn reduces green house gas emissions.

- **Old CalTrans Building (near Old Town San Diego State Historic Park)**

Bryan Cash updated the Board that things will be moving, very shortly. Stay tuned.

9. Next Meeting

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 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 July 11, 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 July 11, 2013

ITEM: **5**

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER – PRESENTATION
(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)**

The Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan

The Board will receive a presentation of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan from San Diego History Center (SDHC) staff and Board of Trustees. The plan was funded by a grant approved by SDRC and executed by the Coastal Conservancy. The plan was completed ahead of schedule and within budget. The SDRC is considering acceptance of the Plan and anticipates its implementation in partnership with SDHC, the City of San Diego, the San Diego River Coalition and other partners.

Presentation and Report:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer, Introductions

Bill Lawrence, Board Trustee

Charlotte Cagan, Executive Director

Consistency with the San Diego River Conservancy Act and Strategic Plans, and Work Plans

Public Resources Code Division 22.9, Chapter 1 Section 3261; and Chapter 2, Section 32633 (a) and (b)

The San Diego River Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017), Program 3B Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historic Resources

Previously approved Resolution: 11-03

Partners: State Coastal Conservancy, San Diego History Center

Recommendation: Board to accept and file The Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Plan

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: 7

**SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY JOINING
CALIFORNIA HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING
COALITION (CHCPC) (INFORMATIONAL /ACTION)**

Presentation and Report:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

Michael Beck, San Diego Director, Endangered Habitats
League

Consistency with the San Diego River Conservancy Act and
Strategic Plans, and Work Plans

Public Resources Code Division 22.9, Chapter 2, Section 32633
(a) and (b)

The San Diego River Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update
(2012-2017), Program 2: Land Conservation

Partners: California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition
members

Recommendation: Board to Approve Resolution 13-04

Exhibits and Documents: CHCPC Goals, CHCPC 2012/2013
activities and plans, CHCPC 2012 newsletter

Resolution No: 13-04

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**Expressing Support for and Request to Join the California Habitat
Conservation Planning Coalition**

WHEREAS, PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, DIVISION 22.9 Chapter 2, Section 32633 (a) established the San Diego River Conservancy (Conservancy) as an independent non-regulatory State agency to acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego River area, and to provide recreational opportunities, open space, wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetland protection and restoration, protection of historical and cultural resources, and protection, maintenance and improvements of the quality of the waters in the San Diego River and its watershed, its tributaries and historic flumes emanating from the river for all beneficial uses, lands for educational uses within the area, and natural floodwater conveyance.

WHEREAS, the Conservancy has successfully helped to implement the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan through its partnership effort to acquire property along the San Diego River; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy recognizes the importance of Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) funding for the successful implementation of Habitat Conservation Plan goals as well as the goals of the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition was formed among a variety of state and local agencies and non-governmental organizations to advance the following goals: Increase funding for Habitat Conservation Plans and Natural Community Conservation Plans; Improve effectiveness of plan preparation and implementation; Achieve coordination with other regional permitting and programs; and Increase understanding and support for regional conservation plans.

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

Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to express the Conservancy's intent to support and join as a member of the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition.

Approved and adopted the 11th day of July 2013. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 13-04 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Kevin McKernan
Executive Officer

California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition

409 Jardin Place, Davis CA 95616 – (530) 756 6455 – ieh@cal.net

Summary of 2012 Activity

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Land Conservancy

City of Chula Vista

City of San Diego

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission

East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy

Endangered Habitats League

ICF International

Institute for Ecological Health

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Environmental Plans Branch

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Reserve of Orange County

Placer County Conservation Plan

Pacific Gas and Electric

Resources Law Group

San Diego Association of Governments

San Diego County

Santa Clara Valley HCP-NCCP

San Joaquin HCP

The Sauls Company

Solano County HCP

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

J Whalen and Associates

Wildlife Conservation Board

Yolo Natural Heritage Program

Our Federal Funding Campaign Work Group focused on the Fiscal 2013 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) appropriations. We requested \$80 million in funding. The administration asked for \$60 million, the same level as Fiscal 2011. Our activities included a late March trip to Washington DC and assembling request letters to Senators Feinstein and Boxer from a variety of local government and other entities. We also organized a Dear Colleague letter from Members of Congress to the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. The leads for this letter were Rep McNerney (D) and Rep Lungren (R). Seventeen additional Members signed the letter.

Congress had not finalized the Fiscal 2013 appropriations as of late November 2012. The House Interior Appropriations bill provides \$14.129 million - while an extremely low figure it is much higher than the \$2.845 million proposed by the House last year. An informal Senate bill proposes \$47.7 million, the same as last year. We expect that, as before, the eventual House-Senate Conference committee will accept the Senate figure.

At the federal level we also provided material to the White House Office of Management and Budget on how regional HCPs can assist infrastructure permitting, while providing enhanced environmental benefits.

Coalition participants held meetings with US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Ren Lohofener and with California Department of Fish and Game Director Chuck Bonham to promote the importance and values of NCCPs and HCPs and of Section 6 funding.

The Coalition is carrying out several Work Group activities and other projects. We are analyzing how to speed up the preparation of regional HCPs and NCCPs and developing material that we will use for an extensive outreach and education program. This is the first stage of a project that later on will examine how to improve plan implementation and then how to increase the value of regional conservation plans. We are seeking funding for the generation of a report on the economic benefits of regional HCPs and NCCPs. We 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 as part of our

promoting this use for a portion of the auction revenue. We have begun discussions on how to coordinate regional scale monitoring for wetlands and for ESA species and habitats.

We produced issues of the Coalition e-newsletter in January and August.

The Coalition held two business meetings, a May meeting in Sacramento and an October meeting in San Diego. At these meetings Coalition leaders discussed our various issues and activities and made decisions on future work.

2013 Program

- * Federal Funding Work Group campaign to protect funding for Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act (the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation fund) with a particular focus on the HCP land acquisition and HCP planning grants subaccounts.
- * Work to obtain NCCPs as an allowed recipient of Cap and Trade auction revenue funds (part of the California Climate Change Program).
- * Ensure that the forthcoming state Wetlands Protection Program regulations provide for programmatic permitting by Regional Water Quality Control Boards that is coordinated with regional conservation plans.
- * Hold an NCCP Celebration on East Contra Costa HCP/NCCP lands in mid-October. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of SB 107, which expanded the NCCP program state-wide, and the 20th anniversary of the original NCCP Act. Release NCCP / regional HCP Goals for the next 10 years.
- * Additional activities to promote the importance and value of NCCPs to agency leadership and seeking specific “asks” to make regional conservation plans a higher priority.
- * Develop HCP Effectiveness solutions and outreach materials, with a 2013 focus on how to prepare plans more quickly. Develop a begin a comprehensive outreach program to promote our solutions and start to change the culture.
- * Participate in a multi-agency group determining how to integrate aquatic resources monitoring with HCP/NCCP monitoring.
- * Preparing an Economic Benefits report and determining how to have higher endowment returns (these projects require outside grant funding).
- * Hold one or two Coalition business meetings.
- * Produce two issues of our E-newsletter.
- * Monthly Steering Committee calls.

California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition

409 Jardin Place, Davis CA 95616 – (530) 756 6455 – ieh@cal.net

California Department of Fish
and Wildlife

California Land Conservancy

City of San Diego

City of Chula Vista

Coachella Valley Conservation
Commission

East Contra Costa Habitat
Conservancy

Endangered Habitats League

Friends of Harbors, Beaches
and Parks

ICF International

Institute for Ecological Health

Marine Corps Base Camp
Pendleton, Environmental
Plans Branch

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Reserve of Orange
County

Placer County Conservation
Plan

Pacific Gas and Electric

Resources Law Group

San Diego Association of
Governments

San Diego County

Santa Clara Valley HCP-NCCP

San Joaquin HCP

The Sauls Company

Solano County HCP

Tejon Ranch Conservancy

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Western Riverside County
Regional Conservation
Authority

J Whalen and Associates

Wildlife Conservation Board

Yolo Natural Heritage Program

Coalition Goals

- Securing adequate federal, state and local funding to assist preparation and implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs).
- Coordinating NCCPs and HCPs with other federal, state and regional natural resource protection and permitting programs, including climate change and wetlands permitting.
- Facilitating the development and improving the effectiveness of NCCPs and HCPs.
- Strengthening understanding of and support for NCCPs and HCPs among decision makers, stakeholders and the public.

California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition

E-Newsletter

Number 4 Summer 2012

MEMBERS

California Department of Fish and Game.
California Land Conservancy.
City of Chula Vista.
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission.
East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy.
Endangered Habitats League.
ICF International.
Institute for Ecological Health.
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Environmental Plans Branch.
The Nature Conservancy.
The Nature Reserve of Orange County.
Placer County Conservation Plan.
Pacific Gas and Electric.
Resources Law Group.
San Diego Association of Governments.
San Diego County.
Santa Clara Valley HCP-NCCP.
San Joaquin HCP.
The Sauls Company.
Solano County HCP.
Tejon Ranch Conservancy.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority.
J Whalen and Associates.
Wildlife Conservation Board.
Yolo Natural Heritage Program.

GOALS

- Increase funding for HCPs & NCCPs.
- Improve effectiveness of plan preparation and implementation.
- Achieve coordination with other regional permitting and programs.
- Increase understanding and support for regional conservation plans.

Contact: ieh@cal.net

CONTENTS

Fiscal 2012 CESCOF Grants	1
Federal Funding Group Trip to DC	2
Regional Wetlands Permitting	4
Conservation Plans, Jobs and the Economy	4
Federal Infrastructure Executive Order	5
News From Some Conservation Plans	5
Recent Science	8
Meetings	8
2012 Coalition Supporters	8

Fiscal 2012 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Grants Awarded

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced its Fiscal 2012 CESCOF (also known as Section 6) grant awards. See <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/FY12Section6AwardSummariesFinal.pdf>

Habitat Conservation Plan Acquisition Grants

Total funding was reduced substantially because of cuts in appropriations. Only \$15 million was available nation-wide for fiscal 2012, compared with \$40 million for fiscal 2010. (See Trends in Section 6 Funding on page 3.)

Grant awards totaled \$14,976,000, with \$7 million going to three California plans and \$7.976 million going to five plans in Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. All of the grants provided only part of the requested amounts.

Within California, the Western Riverside MSHCP received \$4 million, the City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan \$2.0 million and the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP \$ 1.0 million. The Carlsbad plan is a subarea plan of the San Diego Multiple Habitat Conservation Program.

The Western Riverside plan's grant supports the acquisition of about 900 acres of habitat whose species include the California gnatcatcher, the arroyo toad and Quino checkerspot butterfly. The City of Carlsbad's grant supports conservation of \$1,351 acres, including riparian and upland areas that

provide habitat for the least Bell’s vireo, the California least tern, the western snowy plover and several other plan species. The grant for the East Contra Costa County plan supports purchase of 1,800 acres, including habitat for the kit fox, the California red-legged frog and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp.

Habitat Conservation Plan Planning Grants

This subaccount received only a modest cut, with \$9.5 million appropriated compared to \$10 million for fiscal 2010 and 2011. Seven California plans received a total of \$4,173,218. An additional 11 plans outside of California received a total of \$5,311,782. In addition to the nine-state Great Plains Wind Energy HCP, these plans are in Florida (3 plans), Georgia, Oregon (3 plans), Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington.

The California grants are:

Bakersfield HCP /NCCP	\$ 945,000
Bay Delta Conservation Plan	\$ 640,575
Butte HCP/NCCP	\$ 999,999
Kern Valley Floor HCP	\$ 428,019
City of Colton HCP	\$ 70,875
Northeastern San Luis Obispo County HCP/NCCP	\$ 275,000
Town of Apple Valley HCP/NCCP	\$ 813,750



Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

This subaccount received \$10 million, compared to \$11 million in fiscal 2011 and \$15 million in fiscal 2011. California obtained a total \$1,488,177 for four projects. An additional 10 projects in other states received a total of \$6,995,709. These projects are in Alabama, Hawai’i (2), Nebraska (2), Oregon, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The California Recovery projects funded are:

Arrastre Canyon, Los Angeles County	\$ 350,000
Kelsey Ranch easement, Merced County	\$ 750,000
Peninsula Bighorn Sheep, Riverside County	\$ 88,177
Shay Meadows, San Bernardino County	\$ 300,000

The Arrastre Canyon project, along a tributary of the Santa Clara River, will conserve habitat for the unarmored three-spine stickleback, the arroyo toad, the Southwestern willow flycatcher and the California red-legged frog. The Kelsey Ranch easement is in a vernal pool grasslands landscape whose species include the California tiger salamander, vernal pool fairy shrimp, succulent owl’s clover and Hartweg’s golden sunburst. The grant for conservation within Riverside county protects two areas within the Santa Rosa mountains. They are habitat for the desert tortoise and triple- ribbed milk vetch, as well as the bighorn sheep and possibly the desert slender salamander. The Shay Meadows acquisition protects the unarmored three-spine stickleback. Six other listed or rare species may be present.

Federal Funding Work Group’s March 2012 Trip to Washington DC

Eight members of our Federal Funding Work Group made the annual trip to Washington DC at the end of March. The primary purpose was to seek support for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) and promote the values and importance of HCPs. We proposed that Section 6 Fiscal

2013 funding be \$80 million. Visits included Congressmen Calvert and McNerney, staff of Senators Feinstein and Boxer and the various members of our Congressional delegation, as well as staff of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. We also met with leaders of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and staff of the White House Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the latter regarding regional wetlands permitting in coordination with HCPs). We are finding that there is still strong support for the Section 6 program, although the current budget problems and opposition from ultra-conservatives have a big impact. Contact John Hopkins, ieh@cal.net, for a copy of our briefing booklet.



It is apparent that our Coalition needs to reach beyond California and find ways to show support in other states. A number of other states benefit significantly from the three Section 6 “non-traditional” grant programs, in particular Florida, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Hawai’i and Texas. In addition, all states receive a small amount of funding through the traditional Section 6 grants to states.

Before our trip to DC, we were able to obtain a bipartisan “Dear Colleague” letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee expressing strong support for the Section 6 fund. The leads were California Congressmen Dan Lungren (R) and Jerry McNerney (D). 17 other democrats, from Hawai’i to Massachusetts, signed the letter. In addition Congressman Ken Calvert (R), a member of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, has been a tireless supporter of the Section 6 program. We are most appreciative of the assistance from these leaders.

Recent Trends in Section 6 Funding.

The recent federal budget problems and shifts in the political winds have had a big impact on overall Section 6 funding and the HCP land acquisition grants subaccount. In contrast, the HCP Planning grants and the Recovery land acquisition subaccounts have not been cut significantly.

The problems began in 2011, with two years of Congressional Appropriations. The House-passed appropriations bills would have shut down the whole Section 6 program, just providing a small amount for administration of existing grants. Fortunately the strong Senate support for Section 6 funding prevailed in House-Senate conference, although there were still significant cuts.

Funding Levels in Millions of Dollars

Fiscal Year	“ Non-traditional” Grants			Traditional Conservation Grants to States	Section 6 Total (1)
	HCP Planning Assistance	HCP Land Acquisition	Recovery Land Acquisition		
2013 House approps					14.1
2013 Admin Budget	7.0	21.9	15.5	12.6	60.0
2012 Enacted	9.5	15.0	10.0	10.5	47.7
2011 Actual	10.0	19.9	11.0	11.1	60.0
2010 Enacted	10.0	41.0	15.0	11.0	85.0

(1) Each total includes items not in this table.

Regional Wetlands Permitting in Coordination with HCPs and NCCPs

There is continued progress in negotiations between several regional HCPs and NCCPs and the wetlands permitting agencies. In addition, on May 4th the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a Regional General Permit (RGP) for activities in waters of the United States within the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP. This is the first programmatic permit issued in coordination with a regional HCP NCCP.

The East Contra Costa County Section 404 Clean Water Act RGP covers activities that cause only minimal individual and cumulative impacts. It includes development activities within the growth boundaries of the County and participating cities as well flood control facilities, transportation and utility projects specified in the HCP. The RGP also encompasses wetland and stream restoration, creation, enhancement and management activities that are specified in the HCP.

How this RGP works. There is a streamlined process, with individual project applicants needing to notify the Corps and submit a completed 404 permit application. The Corps has a short time to respond. The project applicant must comply with the HCP and all its pertinent conservation measures.

Maximum impact. The maximum impact from a individual project is loss of 1.5 acres of waters, including wetlands, or 300 linear feet of a permanent, intermittent or up to 3rd order ephemeral stream.

The permit is available at

<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Media/RegulatoryPublicNotices/tabid/1035/Page/5/Default.aspx>

Conservation Plans, Jobs and the Economy

Regional conservation plans are a great benefit to local economies and jobs through their streamlined permitting systems. Here are two of examples from our Fiscal 2013 Section 6 Appropriations Briefing Booklet.

East Contra Costa County HCP / NCCP

The eBART project permitted through the HCP/NCCP plan is a 10-mile extension of the BART system. This \$462 million project will generate over 600 600 construction jobs and 40 to 80 permanent jobs, as well as helping commuters and other travelers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Coachella Valley Multispecies Conservation Plan

The Palm Drive / Gene Autry Trail Interchange on Interstate 10 nears completion under budget and ahead of schedule. The environmental permit coverage provided by the Conservation Plan made this project "shovel ready" and led to a federal stimulus \$10 million grant.



If you assume that each acre development will involve \$1 million of economic activity or value (this includes the value of new homes and

businesses), then fourteen of the regional Conservation Plans that are being implemented or under preparation in California will provide for \$1.6 trillion dollars of economic benefits over the lifetimes of their permits.

Federal Infrastructure Executive Order

On March 22nd President Obama issued Executive Order 13604, addressing Infrastructure Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-28/pdf/2012-7636.pdf>) It calls for significant reduction in the time taken by review and permitting, while improving environmental and community outcomes. It required preparation of a Federal Plan that was released in June and is available at http://permits.performance.gov/sites/all/themes/permits2/files/federal_plan.pdf.

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is reaching out to government agencies such as the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding how they will implement this Federal Plan. The Coalition submitted a document to OMB explaining how regional HCPs help permitting of infrastructure projects and providing our key ideas on steps to speed up preparation of these HCPs.

News From Some Coalition Plans

Santa Clara Valley Final HCP/NCCP

The six Plan local partners have released the final plan (see www.scv-habitatplan.org.) The final EIS/EIR and final Implementing Agreement are also available at this site. There is also a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) document (the JPA will administer plan implementation) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the local partners to follow in implementing the Plan.

Over the next two months the local partners will review and vote to approve the Plan and environmental documents. The Plan area encompasses 519,506 acres of the County, centered on the Santa Clara Valley. It includes a portion of the northern County where there is a study area for burrowing owl conservation. The covered activities include urban and rural development, as well capital projects, various operations and maintenance activities and also plan implementation.

The local partners have requested incidental take authorization for 18 listed and non-listed species. If any of the non-listed species become listed during the incident take permits' term no further conservation actions will be required. There are nine animals and nine plants. They include the Bay checkerspot butterfly, California tiger salamander, tricolored blackbird, San Joaquin kit fox, western burrowing owl, Metcalf Canyon jewelflower and Tiburon indian paintbrush.

There will be a permanently protected reserve system, with landscape linkages, of about 46,500 acres. This includes 13,291 acres of existing open space lands not currently under permanent protection.

There are also habitat restoration and in-perpetuity monitoring and adaptive management programs. The estimated cost of implementing the Plan over the 50 year incidental take permits period is \$657,190,000. The includes creation of an endowment for monitoring and adaptive management. The funding includes an assumption that \$115 million can be obtained from federal and state sources.

Coachella Valley MSHCP/NCCP

By Katie Barrows, Coachella Valley Conservation Commission

Recent Acquisitions

The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) is completing acquisition of 2,105 acres of bighorn sheep and alluvial fan habitat at toe of the Santa Rosa Mountains, overlooking the Salton Sea. The acquisition of these lands, formerly planned for an exclusive golf course development, is funded by a federal Section 6 Endangered Species grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), Proposition 84 funds from WCB, and a grant from the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. The Trust for Public Lands and Friends of the Desert Mountains stepped in to acquire quickly one each of two phases of the significant habitat lands near Martinez Canyon. The lands will soon be transferred to the CVCC and will be managed by California Dept. of Fish and Game through an MOU with CVCC.

We also have an approximately 494-acre acquisition of alluvial fan and desert wash habitat in the works, on land surrounded on three sides by existing State Parks property. This acquisition is also funded by Section 6/WCB funds and a grant from the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. Another property formerly scheduled for development, the Indio Trails property includes the access point to a native fan palm oasis in Pushawalla Canyon within the Indio Hills.

The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission/Coachella Valley Association of Governments staff have partnered with Mojave Desert Ecosystem Project to provide online access to our land acquisition database and Coachella Valley MSHCP info. The project was funded by a CDFG Local Assistance grant, with generous help from MDEP staff. See. <http://cvag01.mojavedata.gov/CVMSHCPViewer/>

Restoration Projects

One of the unexpected benefits associated with acquisition of lands for habitat conservation is the clean-up of these lands. Unfortunately in the desert, and undoubtedly other areas, open space lands are subject to dumping. The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy have had more than four tons of solid and hazardous waste removed from acquired properties. These blighted properties would not have been cleaned up without leveraged funds from Section 6 and other habitat conservation funds. And local Corridor contractors are put to work doing the clean-ups (not to mention appraisers and real estate agents involved in purchases)!

Implementation

One of the great benefits of the MSHCP/NCCP approach is the cooperative acquisition and management of reserve lands. CVCC is nearing completion of Reserve Management Unit Plans for all the reserve lands within the CVMSHCP boundary. Five of six plans have been adopted by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission this year. These plans were developed through the collaborative efforts of the Reserve Management Oversight Committee including BLM, CDFG, State Parks, USFWS, CVMSHCP Permittees, US Forest Service, and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy staff. The plans were developed to be living documents; they identify key priorities for dealing with invasive species, off-road vehicle trespass, dumping and other challenges of implementation. From the Valley Floor to the Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Areas, these reserve management plans will be used to direct monitoring and management priorities for reserve lands.

Monitoring and Management

The CVCC is working with UC Riverside on a Wildlife Corridor study to focus on use of critical corridors under Interstate 10, Highway 111, and Highway 62. With support from the Friends of the Desert Mountains through a grant from Southern California Edison, the study is using cameras and other techniques to record the animals using these corridors. The study is also looking at the impacts of vehicle use and human activity in these underpass corridors.



Bobcat in Hwy 111 Corridor
UCR Murphy study

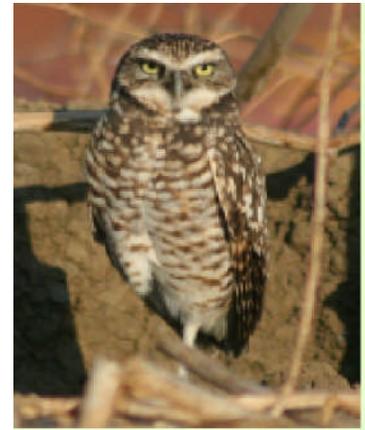
Our monitoring program focuses on understanding the factors that drive populations of covered species and the stressors that impact these populations. Monitoring of sand dune species including the Coachella Valley milkvetch, a federal endangered species, has identified the impact of invasive Sahara mustard. Current efforts focus on identifying methods for control of Sahara mustard, with a research project by UC Riverside offering some potentially promising results. Spraying herbicides early in the growth cycle for this annual mustard, before native annual species emerge, has shown some promise. Evaluation of this technique is planned for this winter/spring.

Placer County Conservation Plan

By Jennifer Byous, Placer County Planning Department

The Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) moved forward this summer with Placer County staff presenting a program update to the Placer County Board of Supervisor on July 10th and the Board giving support to proceed with the PCCP Program Finance Plan and EIR/EIS.

Since the draft Placer County Conservation Plan was released in February 2011, both local and agency staff have been working towards an agreeable conservation strategy and reserve map. Recently, a general consensus has been reached and the revised conservation strategy will serve as the foundation for a new agency-review draft document, expected to be completed by the end of 2012. Given this general agreement on direction, staff on both sides will begin the preparation of the finance plan and EIR/EIS for the program.



CRAM Training

Placer County Conservation Plan staff participated in a three-day California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) training in South Lake Tahoe. This event was hosted by Tahoe Regional Plan TRPA, Lahontan, and the San Francisco Estuary Institute as part of the US EPA wetland grant project. CRAM is a standardized, cost-effective tool for assessing the health of wetlands and riparian habitats. An assessment takes less than one-half field day to complete and is applicable to all wetland types. CRAM is designed for assessing ambient conditions within watersheds, regions, and throughout the State. It can also be used to assess the performance of compensatory mitigation projects and restoration projects. The Placer County Conservation Plan intends to incorporate CRAM into the Plan's Aquatic Resources Program.

For information on CRAM, go to <http://www.cramwetlands.org/>

Recent Scientific Papers and Reports

Integrating Climate Change into Habitat Conservation Plans Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (2012). Bernazzani P, BA Bradley and JJ Opperman. Environmental Management 49:1103-1114.

This paper examines how 31 large-scale HCPs, many in California, address climate change. It looks at trends over time, showing how the more recent plans address climate change in a more extensive way. The authors provide nine recommendations: identify species at risk from climate change; explore new strategies for preserve design; increase emphasis on corridors, linkages and connectivity; manage for diversity and increased resilience; consider assisted migration; include climate change in scenarios of water management; develop future-oriented management actions; and increase connection between the conservation strategy and adaptive management and monitoring programs.

Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services: Technical Input to the 2013 National Climate Assessment. Staudinger et al. (2012)

<http://downloads.usgcrp.gov/NCA/Activities/Biodiversity-Ecosystems-and-Ecosystem-Services-Technical-Input.pdf>

This report provides pertinent information on current and projected impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services. It includes a chapter on the impacts of climate change on already stressed ecosystems and biodiversity and a chapter on adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Meetings and Workshops

Coalition Business Meeting. San Diego, Thursday October 11th 2012

This meeting will be a discussion about key Coalition activities, including our work on federal funding, HCP effectiveness and wetlands permitting. Space is limited. For information etc, contact the Coalition coordinator John Hopkins. ieh@cal.net 530-756-6455

Northern California Conservation Planning Partners' Tenth Annual *Habitat Conservation Planning from Tahoe to the Bay* workshop. Thursday November 15th, 2012. Ulatis Community Center, Vacaville (Solano County).

Keynote speaker Wayne Spencer Ph.D., Conservation Biology Institute, will talk about the Desert Renewal Energy Conservation Plan. Other topics: Integrating wetlands permitting with regional conservation plans; the Placer County Conservation Plan; public participation in the preparation of regional conservation plans; historical ecology; and climate change. E-mail to ieh@cal.net for registration information and program details

Coalition Meeting and Field trip (2-day event). Spring 2013

This will be held in Northern California, with a focus on the East Contra Costa County HCP / NCCP. Date to be determined

2012 Coalition Supporters

Very many thanks to all the organizations providing voluntary membership dues for 2012 - California Land Conservancy, Coachella Valley MSHCP/NCCP, County of San Diego, East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy, Endangered Habitats League, ICF International, Institute for Ecological Health, The Nature Conservancy, Pacific Gas and Electric, Resources Law Group, San Joaquin Council of Governments, Solano County Water Agency and the Yolo Natural Heritage Program. Your contributions make the Coalition possible.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY'S GOVERNING
BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2014**

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: **9**

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:

Authorization to enter into agreements to implement SCC grant for invasive non-native plant control and restoration
Recommendation: Adopt SDRC Resolution 13-05

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

News Articles:

Old Town Park to be Expanded (old CalTrans Building)
Lakeside Brush Fire (Arundo)

Resolution No: 13-05

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**Authorization to Enter Into Agreements to Implement the State Coastal Conservancy's
\$1.5 Million Grant from Proposition 84 Funds for The San Diego River Conservancy's
Invasive Non-Native Plant Control and Restoration**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Proposition 84 (The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006) funds to the State Coastal Conservancy for projects approved by the San Diego River Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Invasive Non-Native Plan Control and Restoration (the project) is consistent with San Diego River Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update (2012-1017), Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land; and WHEREAS the project is located along San Diego River and its tributaries and are outlined in the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Work Program Tier #1; and

WHEREAS the San Diego River Conservancy submitted a Grant Application Form for the project to the State Coastal Conservancy to implement removal, control and re-vegetation of approximately 50 acres of Arundo and other targeted invasive non-native plant above Mission Trails Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2013, the State Coastal Conservancy approved a grant to the San Diego River Conservancy in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the project; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy executed a grant agreement with the State of California through the State Coastal Conservancy to carry out the estimated \$1,500,000 project.

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

1. Authorizes the San Diego River Conservancy to enter into agreements with eligible entities as required to meet its obligations to State Coastal Conservancy under the grant agreement.
2. Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including but not limited to grant agreements, sub-grants, contracts, scopes of work, payment requests, and so on which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 11th day of July 2013. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 13-05 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Kevin McKernan
Executive Officer

JUNE 14TH 2013

U-T
San Diego

Old Town park to be expanded

By [Michael Gardner](#) 4 p.m. on June 12, 2013



The San

Diego district headquarters for Caltrans was occupied in Old Town from 1951 to 1964 and replaced by the present building on Taylor Street in 2006. — *State of California*

SACRAMENTO — A treasure trove of San Diego history may finally be unearthed after years of delay.

State lawmakers in the coming days are expected to pass a new budget that assures Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will become the owner of an adjacent building that served as the local Caltrans headquarters until 2006.

The budget deal is also expected to include a provision that guarantees \$436,000 in bond money to demolish the old Caltrans building and carry out excavations.

The abandoned 115,735 sq. ft. Caltrans building sits on top of an old Kumeyaay village that dates back to AD 500 and a once thriving Mexican settlement. The Fitch store, the first such retail business in San Diego that was owned by Henry Delano Fitch, a sea captain, is also buried underneath the property at the southwest corner of Juan and Taylor Streets.

Also hidden underground are the banks of the original San Diego River, before its course was diverted on the way to the bay.

As a result, Old Town was never able to fully and accurately depict some of the city's history.

“We have never done as good a job as we would like in portraying why Old Town is where it is,” explained Clay Phillips, parks superintendent of the San Diego Coast District.

The state has been eyeing acquisition for some time.

“This action preserves a site rich with our heritage and removes an eyesore from the historic center of our city,” Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, D-San Diego.

Sen. Marty Block, D-San Diego, also touted the new steps, saying “retaining the site in public ownership has statewide significance because of its historic, archaeological and interpretive significance.”

Parks officials say they cannot wait to start excavating. But they almost never got the chance.

Caltrans vacated the 2.4 acre property seven years ago, moving its San Diego headquarters into a new office nearby. The state agency, after saying an agreement could not be reached with the parks department, moved ahead with plans to auction the old building to the highest bidder. Caltrans, which at the time attached a \$10.7 million price tag, said its annual maintenance and security bills came to \$50,000.

Frustrated state parks officials and historic preservation groups, among others, enlisted the aid of lawmakers to work out a deal with Caltrans. Money to pay for the razing and excavation was eventually set aside in a previous bond, but spending authorization was due to expire June 30 this year unless the Legislature acts as part of the budget deal.

Lawmakers stress that the state will not be paying Caltrans for the property.

“We’re pretty excited about it. It’s one of the greatest additions to a park in San Diego we’ve seen,” said Bruce Coons, executive director of the Save Our Heritage Organisation,

In addition to the Fitch store, Coons said old drawings and photograph’s hint of at a buried history, including at least four Spanish-era adobes and other artifacts from the Native Americans who used the river.

“This is the Plymouth Rock of the West Coast,” Coons said.

Coons said he would like to see the old riverbed restored with its native plants, including the sycamores, willows and oaks that once dotted the banks.

“There it will actually look like a park,” he said.

State parks spokesman Roy Stearns said the department is drafting a plan to use the property and wants to work with the community before making any final decisions.



Lakeside brush fire contained: 5 structures damaged or destroyed, 1 hospitalized with burn injuries

Fire occurred near Olde Hwy. 80 off Hwy. 8 Bus.

Posted: 05/12/2013

LAKESIDE, Calif. - Firefighters have contained a 2-acre brush fire in Lakeside that left five structures damaged or destroyed and one person injured.

The fire was reported just before 12 p.m. Sunday near Olde Highway 80 off Highway 8 Business, east of Los Coches Road. Officials say the fire was burning at a well-known homeless encampment in thick bamboo weeds called arundo.

The wind carried the embers to mobile homes in the area. Five were either damaged or destroyed and a couple of the trailers, which belonged to a local roofing company, sustained heavy damage.

Several air tankers and two strike teams were dispatched to fight the fire, which was contained at about 1 p.m. However, due to the hot and windy conditions, crews will be on scene for the next several hours to mop up hotspots.

A Hazmat crew has been called out as a precaution to investigate the roofing company's materials that may have burned in the fire.

A woman was transported to UCSD Medical Center to be treated for burn injuries and is in critical condition.

Two adults and four children were displaced from one of the residences, according to the Heartland Fire and Rescue Department. The Red Cross has been called out to assist them with finding a place to stay.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. 10News learned that because there was a serious injury, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Bomb/Arson Unit will be coming out to determine the cause.

Power was out for customers in the surrounding area. It was unclear how many customers were affected.

SLIDESHOW: [Lakeside brush fire](#)





State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: **10**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2013, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 11, 2013

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**