



State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (2018-2023)

This second update to the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011 is a high-level overview for the period 2018-2023. The first update for the period 2012-2017, continued the original four program areas, but split one into two sub-programs and added a fifth program. This update categorizes the two sub-programs as separate programs, resulting in a total of six programs.

This document builds on several documents that incorporate the principles and recommendations of the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan (2002) including, but not limited to:

- San Diego River Conservancy Act (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 32630-32661)
- SDRC Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011 (March 2006)
- SDRC Gaps Analysis 2010
- Strategic and Infrastructure Plan Analysis (September 2011)
- Addendum to the SDRC Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan (Nov. 2011)
- SDRC 2012 Annual Work Plan (March 2012)
- SDRC Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017)
- SDRC 2014 Annual Work Plan (January 2014)
- SDRC 2016 -17 Annual Work Plan (January 2017)
- California State Senate Bill 214 (Atkins 2017)

PROGRAM 1: CONSERVE LAND WITHIN THE SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED

Identify Key Watershed Properties for Acquisition

- Explore land acquisition opportunities with other public agencies and/or other partners
 - Identify potential opportunities
 - Identify current and potential partners
- Conserve additional acres
 - Support opportunities as they are created and/or presented to SDRC and/or its partners
 - Identify partners for conservation easements, as appropriate
 - Identify type(s) of habitat to target

- Outline general protection strategies and potential funding sources (MSCP, development mitigation, land-use regulation, SANDAG, SDCWA, cities, county and state)

PROGRAM 2: SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE RECREATION AND EDUCATION

Complete the Trail

- Collaborate with partners to make trail real, safe, visible and educational
- Also focus on habitat restoration and interpretive opportunities
- Continue development of a more robust connection and a physical path between Old Town State Historic Park, Junipero Serra Museum and the San Diego River Trail
- Update San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis
- Accommodate multiple user types (pedestrian, bicyclist and equestrian)

PROGRAM 3: PRESERVE AND RESTORE NATURAL RESOURCES

Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land

- Continue invasive plant removal and restoration of land within the watershed
- Establish additional partnerships agreements to use SDRC permits for this work
- Continue annual reporting to regulatory agencies
- Help facilitate restoration of sensitive habitat
- Coordinate with existing and adopted plans
- Help facilitate preservation of species

Continue ongoing maintenance and funding for investments (e.g., Proposition 40, Supplemental Environmental Projects, local governments, other sources)

- Continue support of Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

PROGRAM 4: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Expand partnerships to preserve and provide access to cultural and historical resources, and build on education efforts

- Work with San Diego History Center for implementation of its Interpretive Master Plan for Junipero Serra Museum
- Work with Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
- Pursue National Heritage Areas or other designations to protect cultural and/or historical resources
- Link to museums and educational institutions

PROGRAM 5: ENHANCE WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL FLOOD CONVEYANCE

Continue collaboration with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB), as well as other partners and co-permittees on projects or programs consistent with the strategic plans of both agencies, federal, state and local water quality plans and goals, particularly:

- Municipal Storm Water Permit (including MS4 regarding groundwater and stormwater runoff)
- Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project
- San Diego River Watershed Management Plan
- Support Community Cleanup and Trash Collection project initiatives
- SDRWQCB San Diego River Watershed Monitoring Project
- Encourage use of consistent metrics in San Diego River Watershed to assess project effectiveness

PROGRAM 6: EXPAND THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPACITY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Develop and implement a partnering strategy to continue grant programs

- Strengthen current partnerships and develop additional partnerships, including other agencies, K-12, universities and other stakeholders

- Pursuant to the San Diego River Master Plan, coordinate with the City of San Diego on any redevelopment projects within the San Diego River watershed
- Coordinate with appropriate jurisdictions and partners on any redevelopment projects along the San Diego River
- Coordinate with relevant master plans and master plan updates, as well as other jurisdictions' planning documents
- Collaborate with partners regarding regulatory and resource agency issues, and develop a comprehensive, collaborative approach to obtain additional permits when necessary

Expand focus and capacity

- Increase number of voting Board members to 15
- Identify and pursue projects that address climate change and its impacts on the San Diego River watershed
- Identify and pursue projects that address environmental justice

Expand public outreach

- Establish office within the San Diego River watershed
- Better utilize website to enhance awareness of restoration strategies, grants and achievements
- Establish a San Diego River Conservancy speakers committee for Board and staff to make presentations to community and other groups