

# 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,

May 3, 2012  
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	Department of Finance
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311	State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814	Sacramento, CA 95814

(877) 287-0283 / Pass code 606349

Contact: Michael Nelson  
(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*)  
Approve minutes of March 1, 2012
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 River Conservancy: Strategic Plan / 2012-17 (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

Ann Miller Haddad will introduce Peter MacCracken, who will facilitate a discussion with the Governing Board that will guide the development of SDRC's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan.

Ann Miller Haddad, San Diego River Conservancy  
Peter MacCracken, APR, Strategic Communications

7. 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:

- **City of San Diego/ Carlton Oaks Golf Course: Proposed Sale / 68 acres**  
The Chair and the Executive Officer will discuss the results of a recent meeting with the Mayor of San Diego's Chief Financial Officer.
- **Department of Transportation: Auction / Former Old Town Office**  
Status Report
- **SDRC/ SCC/DGS: Transfer of Administrative Services**  
Status Report
- **SDRC / SDRPF: Board of Director's Workshop**  
Status Report
- **Department of Finance, Office of Audits and Evaluations**  
**Natural Resources Agency, Proposition 40 - Grant Audit**  
Executive Officer will discuss the audit conducted April 9-12, 2012.

8. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held July 12, 2012, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

9. 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 Michael Nelson at 619-645-3183.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of May 3, 2012**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of May 3, 2012**

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**  
The Board will consider adoption of the **March 1, 2012**  
public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **March 1, 2012** Board Meetings are  
attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)**  
Minutes of March 1, 2012 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on May 3, 2012)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the March 1, 2012 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:04 p.m.

## 1. Roll Call

### Members Present

Brent Eidson	Mayor, City of San Diego (Designee)
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Todd Gloria	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 3
Lorie Zapf	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 6
Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Karen Finn	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
Ann Miller Haddad	Public at Large (left at 3:01 pm)
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board (via phone)

### Absent

Ronie Clark	Department of Parks and Recreation, Alternate Designee
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### Staff Members Present

Michael Nelson	Executive Officer
Hayley Peterson	Deputy Attorney General
Julia Richards	Administrative Services Manager
Ann Van Leer	Consultant

### Attendees

Chuck Muse, Carlos Lugo, Ron Hutsel, Maryanne Vancio, Ann Van Leer, Dick Rol, Andrea Bitterling, Jason Giessow, Virginia Lorne, Terry Rodgers, Mark Carpenter, Carolyn Jorgensen, Janis Shackelford, Robin Shifflet, Janice Downs, Jack Straw, Stephen Hill, Edward Basmadjian

## 2. Approval of Minutes

Michael Nelson explained that SDRC Minutes are not transcriptions but summaries of the Governing Board's actions and deliberations. He stated that he had been advised that Janis Shackelford's testimony of and the remarks of Supervisor Jacob had not been reflected in the minutes for January 5, 2012. He informed that Board that he would amend the minutes to reflect the testimony of Janis Shackelford and the remarks and motion of Supervisor Jacob.

**Ben Clay** asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes with the Executive Officer's proposed amendment. **Ann Miller Haddad** moved approval of the minutes of the January 5, 2012 public meeting with an amendment to be added by the Executive Officer. The motion was seconded by **Dianne Jacob** and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

### 3. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. 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.

**Chuck Muse** introduced Helix Water District's new General Manager, Carlos Lugo, who was replacing Mark Weston. He stated that Carlos had been with the Helix Water District for 21 years and was previously its Director of Engineering.

**Carlos Lugo** stated that one of his goals was to continue and maintain the good relationship Helix Water District has with the San Diego River Conservancy.

**Betty McMillian**, introduced herself as a member of Lakeside's River Park Conservancy's Board of Directors and Lakeside Frontier Riders. She stated that equestrian trails were extremely important in the community of Lakeside. She said that she had gathered signatures for a petition by various groups that supported a biking, hiking and equestrian trail through Santee connecting Lakeside to Mission Trails Regional Park. She stated that petitioners included Lakeside Frontier Riders, Blossom Valley Riders and Gardeners, Backcountry Horseman, Bonita Valley Horsemen, Pine Valley Mountain Riders, Lakeside Historical Society, Lakeside's Garden and Women's Club, and other independent riders and hikers.

**Janis Shackelford** thanked the SDRC for amending the January 2012 minutes to reflect her attendance. She said it is important to have equestrian representative on the intergovernmental group. She stated the trails through Santee are an essential connection point from Mission Trails Regional Park to East County including the Stowe Trail from the north.

**Dianne Jacob** thanked Janis and Betty for the petition and brought them up to date on the issue. She said she had a meeting with the Community Services Director for the City of Santee, who expressed the City's interest in working on the issue of access to Mission Trails Regional Park and East County with a surface acceptable to horses and joggers. She testified that City of Santee was amenable, but funding was an issue. She also said that SANDAG has funding, but only for a cement path, so she felt that it was prudent to take advantage of the funding opportunity, but make certain that sufficient right of way is secured to provide equestrian access.

**Michael Nelson** added that Bill Maertz, Santee's Community Services Director and the SDRC's principal point of contact had welcomed the meeting with the Supervisor to explain Santee's willingness to provide trail access to equestrians. He added that while SDRC did not have jurisdictional authority over Santee; he was optimistic that SDRC and its Intergovernmental Working Group will voice its support for a regional project that accommodates equestrians. He further advised the Board that he

would deliver the petition to the City of Santee and speak with them regarding the issues it raises.

**Robin Shifflet**, City of San Diego, Project Manager for the San Diego River Park Master Plan said the Environmental Impact Report is almost finished and will be released for public review in late spring. She said that the Master Plan had been 11 years in the making and will go to City Council by the end of the year. She said that she would return to SDRC for a recommendation to the City Council.

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

**Ben Clay** stated he is a member of the City of San Diego's Qualcomm Advisory Board and that he continues to inquire about the status of the plume from the Kinder Morgan facility in Mission Valley and its impacts on the San Diego River. He asked Gary Strawn, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's (SDRWQCB) representative to SDRC to look into the matter on SDRC's behalf.

**Brent Eidson** advised that there was a considerable amount of information relating the plume and litigation with Kinder Morgan and that he would like to speak with the head of the City's Public Utilities Department before placing it on an SDRC agenda.

**Gary Strawn** responded that the plume was on the SDRWQCB agenda last month, he said it was primarily a discussion regarding water rights and whether Kinder Morgan will be able to complete its clean up as scheduled in enforcement orders. He advised that he would speak with David Gibson, SDRWQCB's Executive Officer and that he or staff could provide SDRC with a briefing on current issues.

**Ben Clay** added he and Mike Nelson met with Betsy Kimmel, General Counsel and owner of Midwest TV and thanked them for letting SDRC do invasive control and restoration on their property and raised the San Diego River Trail with her.

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

**Hayley Peterson** reminded the members that the deadline for Form 700, Statement of Economic Interest, was approaching and that the Executive Officer was the filing officer for SDRC. She said that if there were any questions they should contact her, Mike Nelson or the Fair Political Practices Commission. She further advised that all members had an obligation to complete ethics training every two (2) years.

#### **6. San Diego River Conservancy: Strategic Plan / 2012-17 (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)**

**Ann Miller Haddad** will introduce Peter MacCracken, who will lead SDRC's Strategic Planning Exercise and review with the Board a Scope of Work for his services.

2012 -2017 Strategic Plan-Methodology

Ann Miller Haddad

Scope of Work

Peter MacCracken, APR, Strategic Communications

**Ann Miller Haddad** recalled that at the last meeting SDRC approved a process for developing a 5-year strategic plan for 2012-2017. She said it was a 2-stage process: (1) develop a strategic plan; and, (2) a

financial assessment of its costs and a 5 year capital plan and outlay. She added that the Board approved Resolution 11-04 which memorialized these steps.

She introduced Peter MacCracken of Strategic Communications, as a well established consultant in this community who was here to address the steps SDRC would follow to develop the 2012-2017 Strategic Plans.

**Peter MacCracken** reviewed Resolution 11-04 and its requirement to update the strategic plan that expired last year and to create an updated 5-year plan, which looked at the projects within the four program areas established by the 2006-2011 Plan. He noted that there had been numerous discussions regarding a 2 step process and emphasized that he would only be responsible for step 1, the strategy. He stated that his company seeks to do two things: first, focus on strategic communications that look at the “big picture” and second to work on things that would make the region better in the future.

He reiterated that the “scope of his work” commences with the four program areas, projects and revisions to the existing strategic plan. He said the exercise would include an internal and external assessment, a performance review of objectives and projects, and a promotion of innovation and linking strategic objectives to capital allocation and execution. He promised to revise the plan in consultation with SDRC project and finance committees and bring back a draft for the Board’s review and input to finalize. He said that he would conduct research that would consist primarily of the existing Strategic Plan, the Addendum, and other historical documents and related documents. He testified that he would meet with the SDRC staff and the Board’s leadership. He said he would include a situational analysis of where SDRC is today, revisit the vision and mission principals, goals and objectives, successes to date to update the plan. He said he would present a draft to the Board at the May meeting and hope to finalize the Plan based on the input and comments he received.

**Ruth Hayward** suggested that she would like to see any updating of the Strategic Plan and its objectives to place greater emphasis on endangered species that live in the watershed. She remarked that at least 7 birds were listed in habitats found in the San Diego River watershed. She further stated that it would be desirable for SDRC to work with the biologists at the US Fish and Wildlife and perhaps some local folks from the Audubon Society or Project Wildlife.

**Dianne Jacob** wanted assessments for the Strategic Plan to investigate how its goals and objectives can be as consistent as possible with the County’s Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and the habitat. She said that one of the reasons she had raised this issue was to make SDRC available for funding opportunities that are presently available.

**Ben Clay** thanked Dianne for her recommendation, noting the County of San Diego’s experience and expertise on the MSCP issue. He reminded the audience that SDRC was not starting from scratch. He said the development Strategic Plan and its objectives would be a collaborative process that included the San Diego River Park Foundation, SDRC members, as well as, input from the cities, the county, and the state, which may introduce different work plans and programs.

**Gary Strawn** offered the assistance from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board on Program 4: Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance.

**Dianne Jacobs** recalled the Governing Board's discussion at its last meeting and asked that equestrian access be referenced. She acknowledged that even though SDRC does not have jurisdictional control over cities or the county, it can certainly state its vision regarding equestrian access as it develops and refines its goals and objectives for the San Diego Trail.

## **7. San Diego River Conservancy / 2012 Work Plan (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)** **Presentation and Report** **Michael Nelson, Executive Officer**

**Michael Nelson** began his presentation of the 2012 Work Plan by reminding everyone that it had been the practice of SDRC to review the San Diego River Coalition's annual Work Plan before considering the Conservancy's. He mentioned that the San Diego River Coalition comprised more than 70 organizations and its Chair Rob Hutsel had made a presentation of their plan to the Governing Board at the January meeting.

His PowerPoint for the SDRC 2012 Work Plan emphasized three principles: (1) maintaining a commitment to complete projects approved by the SDRC Governing Board, the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) and the San Diego River Coalition; (2) continuing alliances and collaborations with stakeholders and local governments that have the commitment and the capacity to improve the river and make it accessible; and, (3) pursuing a funding strategy that takes advantage of regional, state, federal, local and private programs; legislative initiatives; and, those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs and budgets.

His presentation also included an analysis of trends that became evident in 2011 and reviewed selected achievements such as the San Diego River Invasives Control and Restoration and its oversight and management of eight projects on public and private land; Walker Property Acquisition; San Diego River Trail, particularly the successes of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG); the partnership with the San Diego Natural History Center at the Serra Museum; San Diego River Research Center; Hanson Pond; Tributary Canyons and projects at the Carlton Oaks Golf Course .

The Action Agenda for 2012 comprised *Organizational Priorities and Objectives and Project Priorities and Objectives*.

### **Organizational Priorities and Objectives:**

(1) Pursue new and existing funding opportunities that would include regional, federal and private opportunities legislative initiatives, particularly those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs; (2) develop a government relations program that reaches state, local and federal elected officials and their delegations to emphasize the importance of the San Diego River's restoration, and list projects SDRC and the San Diego River Coalition have determined to be crucial priorities; and, (3) sponsor a Priorities Setting Workshop with the San Diego State University that provides a forum for the San Diego River Coalition and other stakeholders to discuss and seek agreement on priorities and funding strategies.

### **Project Priorities and Objectives**

Maintain a commitment to complete projects approved by the SDRC Governing Board, the San Diego River Trail Intergovernmental Working Group and the San Diego River Coalition, particularly those that are located in the riparian corridor that connects the Mission Trails, Santee, and Lakeside's reaches of the San Diego River. New projects comprised four trail segments on the San Diego River Trail that had

been identified by the Intergovernmental Working Group and the San Diego River Coalition: Walker Properties, Carlton Oaks Golf Course, Eastern Flume, and Fenton Parkway to I-15 as well as, projects to pursue the development of a San Diego River Research Center with San Diego State University and the Discovery Center at Grant Park with the San Diego River Park Foundation.

In addition, he also reviewed the financial status of the Conservancy and funding for its programs and projects. He said that general obligation bond set asides and grant awards had netted \$21.7 million of which \$18 million had been approved by SDRC. He concluded there was \$3.7 million remaining, though all but \$942,000 of these funds were subject to a re-appropriation that the State Coastal Conservancy must request.

**Ben Clay** asked if that should be a role for the Natural Resources Agency to play regarding the re-appropriation as they develop their budget which includes SDRC. He asked Bryan Cash if he would comment.

**Bryan Cash** responded that the funding is in the State Coastal Conservancy's (SCC) budget and they would have responsibility for making the re-appropriation request.

**Andrew Poat** said that the San Diego delegation should be notified of this fact so they might insure that the re-appropriation was addressed as the budget proceeds.

**Dianne Jacob** asked what were SDRC's chances of securing the re-appropriation.

**Michael Nelson** responded that he thought the chances were very good and remarked that re-appropriations happen routinely. He then asked Deanna Spehn, Senator Kehoe's policy director, whether she would agree with his statement.

**Deanna Spehn** testified that she often works closely with Department of Finance and the Resources Agency to make certain funding is re-appropriated each year.

**Ben Clay** thanked Deanna and Bryan Cash then asked them if there were other general obligation funds that may be available, which had not been identified for a specific use that SDRC might be able to include in a request for re-allocation.

**Bryan Cash** said that there were none that he was aware of; and, said that there aren't too many funds available in Sacramento these days.

**Michael Nelson** added that presently SDRC has \$942,000 of the Proposition 84, 08/09 appropriation available for the projects identified in the 2012 Work Plan. His recommendation for SDRC was to aggressively put together projects for the entire \$3.7 million and work closely with the State Coastal Conservancy, even if the appropriation is not available at this time.

**Dianne Jacob** asked as why weren't these funds appropriated and directed to projects sooner.

**Michael Nelson** responded that it was in large measure due to the general obligation bond freeze that occurred and suspended funding for 2 years. He added that the State Coastal Conservancy guidelines do not to fund projects for which CEQA had not been completed which also delayed encumbrance.

**Dianne Jacob** commented that she would expect to get these projects “shovel ready” so SDRC can be sure funding is moved into projects as soon as possible. She asked that she be notified if staff needed help to accomplish this request.

**Ben Clay** recommended that the 2012 Work Plan be placed on SDRC’s website.

**Lorie Zapf** asked how the permit works for invasive removal.

**Michael Nelson** explained that the SDRC had to obtain permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and state and local permits from other resource agencies to control invasives in the watershed, which included preparation and approval of documents necessary to comply with CEQA. He said that the permit is in force until 2015 and SDRC is presently doing its own projects as well as providing oversight to other non profits and agencies. He stated that he is presently having conversations with agencies of the City of San Diego who manage property along the river.

**Lorie Zapf** asked what agencies of the City he was he having conversations.

**Michael Nelson** responded that most recently it had been the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Utilities, but most recently with the Stormwater Management Division and managers of Qualcomm Stadium.

**Lorie Zapf** said she has had conversations with numerous property owners between Sefton Field and Highway 15 about invasives and wondered with SDRC could work with them and a local organization to initiate a project.

**Michael Nelson** responded that SDRC could work with private property owners if funding was available, and he recalled that SDRC had but \$942,000 available for all projects. He added that if the private property owners were organized and had funding then SDRC could allow use of its permits and provide oversight. He further advised that presently SDRC is focusing its funds on the worst infestations along the river, particularly Arundo; and, cited has an example that staff had been discussing a huge infestation near Los Coches Creek with property owners and community leaders residing near in Lakeside.

**Gary Strawn** added that he had attended a briefing about Los Coches Creek project at a meeting of the San Diego River Coalition. He said he met with Robin Rierdan from Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy (LRPC) about a grant they had received to remove invasives on private property and that they were working with a conservation corps and landowners. He mentioned that he would like to see this effort expand to Sycamore Creek at Santee Lakes.

**Ben Clay** recommended to Lorie Zapf that SDRC and her office consider getting together to determine what might be possible because he likes the idea of working with private property owners.

## 8. Environmental Services Contract (*INFORMATIONAL*)

The Executive Officer will present the results of a competitive solicitation for an Environmental Services Contractor and the selection of Land Conservation Brokerage and its project team.

### Presentation

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Ann Van Leer, Land Conservation Brokerage (Principal)

Project Team: Dendra, AECOM, Helix, KTU+A, CGS, Inc., et al.

**Michael Nelson** announced the award of contract to Land Conservation Brokerage before introducing Ann Van Leer. He said the contract value was approximately \$60,000 and for a term for two (2) years. He said SDRC will assign tasks to Land Conservation Brokerage for an array of services as necessary, which could include biological services, permit compliance, project maps and evaluations, real estate services and project accounting. He said that staff had evaluated the five (5) proposals that were submitted and Land Conservation Brokerage, the lowest bidder, had received the award.

**Ann Van Leer** thanked the Governing Board for the award and the opportunity to introduce her team members. She said it is great to see the Conservancy start as a small organization with no projects to remain a small organization with many projects. She testified that the solicitation allowed her to grow her team to provide more resources for SDRC staff and Board. She introduced Mark Carpenter from KTU&A, Dick Rol from AECOM, Andrea Bitterling from Helix Environmental, Jason Giessow from Dendra, Carolyn Jorgensen, and Terry Rodgers who will work on grant applications.

**Ben Clay** acknowledged that SDRC solicited proposals that Land Conservation Brokerage was low bidder and that SDRC will probably need to do a similar procurement every so many years.

**Dianne Jacobs** complimented Land Conservation Brokerage and asked the amount of the bid.

**Michael Nelson** said this contract will cost SDRC approximately \$60,000 over two years. He explained that each member of the team established an hourly rate for the service they perform. The actual amount for services will be dependent on the money available in SDRC's operating budget and the tasks it asks to be provided. Historically, SDRC's budget for external consultants ranges from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

**Dianne Jacobs** asked whether the Governing Board had provided the Executive Officer with the authority to make this award and if so was there a dollar limit.

**Michael Nelson** responded that the Governing Board had approved a Resolution delegating such authority to the Executive Officer to enter into contracts for services following State procurement laws and guidelines, but that he was not aware of the dollar limit.

**Hayley Peterson** explained that SDRC Resolution 04-06 provides discretion to the Executive Officer to enter into contracts, procure and execute consultant or service contracts in an amount of \$175,000 or less for contracts and with public agencies in the amount of \$200,000 or less. She added that these limits were established when the State Coastal Conservancy was acting as a temporary executive officer and were based on documents and sums that were consistent with other agencies and other conservancies.

**Michael Nelson** said that he would include procurements and contracts for services as part of his Executive Officers Report.

**Ben Clay** asked that the Resolution and the dollar amount be revisited at a future meeting of the Governing Board.

## 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:

### City of San Diego/ Carlton Oaks Golf Course: Proposed Sale / 68 acres

**Michael Nelson** said there was a meeting of San Diego City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee on October 5, 2011, regarding the proposed sale where committee members expressed their displeasure with the prospect of a sale until a thorough evaluation of a lease renewal had been explored. On February, 16, 2012 he and the Chair attended a meeting with Jay Goldstone, the City of San Diego to discuss the City's interest in retaining public ownership and entering a new lease agreement with TY Investments for a long term lease, which would specifically reference the development of the San Diego River Trail and SDRC's invasive control and restoration project. He reported that he had obtained a copy of the lease and provided assurances that it did contain provisions for trail easements on public and private property, as well as restoration.

**Ben Clay** said that these were positive developments, but indicted that SDRC must see the final lease and its exhibits before supporting the City's proposal on April 11, 2012 when it is scheduled to be back on the Land Use and Housing Committee's agenda.

### Department of Transportation: Auction / Former Old Town Office

**Michael Nelson** said the auction of the Caltrans Office Complex had been postponed again. He said that the disposition of the Governor's Office and the Natural Resources Agency was the same as it was at the last SDRC meeting. He reiterated that the Governor had strongly encouraged the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency to resolve the issue; and, recommended that SDRC not to pursue some any legal actions.

**Bryan Cash** representing the Natural Resources Agency confirmed the Executive Officer's briefing and assessment.

### SDRC/ SCC/DGS: Transfer of Administrative Services

**Michael Nelson** recalled that he previously advised the Board that a transfer of administrative services from the State Coastal Conservancy, which presently provides accounting and personnel services, to the Department of General Services, Office of Contracted Fiscal Services would occur at the beginning of Fiscal Year 12/13 commencing on July 1, 2012.

**Ben Clay** asked the Natural Resources Agency if they are comfortable with this transition.

**Bryan Cash** responded the Resources Agency was comfortable with the transfer.

### **SDRC / SDRPF: Board of Director's Workshop**

**Michael Nelson** said the Governing Board has continued to express a desire for the Boards of the San Diego River Conservancy and San Diego River Park Foundation to have a workshop. He stated that he was working with the San Diego Foundation to secure a date.

**Dianne Jacobs** said it would be easier to schedule if it was scheduled on a regular SDRC meeting date.

**Michael Nelson** stated that the San Diego Foundation, the River Park Foundation and SDRC were currently looking at Fridays in April.

### **Walker Property, Santee**

**Michael Nelson** said reminded the Board that the Trust for Public Lands had secured an option contract for the property, the City of Santee had agreed to accept title and manage it, and the Coastal Conservancy had approved a \$1.4 million grant. He said the final approval rests with the Wildlife Conservation Board, which will occur in May or August of 2012.

**Virginia Lorne** also briefed the Board on the Walker Properties and explained that The Trust for Public Lands obtained an option that extends until August 2012, that surveys and environmental assessments had been conducted, and the landowner was addressing title issues. She said that TPL was also working closely with the City of Santee, who is the ultimate holder of the title, and funding agencies, the State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board.

**Meeting adjourned 3:35 p.m.**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of May 3, 2012**

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 May 3, 2012**

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 May 3, 2012**

ITEM: **5**

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

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of May 3, 2012**

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY: STRATEGIC  
PLAN / 2012-17 (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)**

Ann Miller Haddad will introduce Peter MacCracken, who will facilitate a discussion with the Governing Board that will guide the development of SDRC's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan.

Ann Miller Haddad, San Diego River Conservancy  
Peter MacCracken, APR, Strategic Communications

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of May 3, 2012**

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)**

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- **Department of Transportation: Auction / Former Old Town Office**  
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Natural Resources Agency, Proposition 40 - Grant Audit**  
Executive Officer will discuss the audit conducted April 9-12, 2012.

# **ITEM 7**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **EXHIBITS**

**Department of Finance, Office of Audits and  
Evaluations Natural Resources Agency, Proposition  
40 - Grant Audit**

**USDA, Cleveland National Forest  
River Gorge Trail & Cedar Creek Falls**

**Media Articles**



Transmitted via e-mail

April 5, 2012

Mr. Michael Nelson, Executive Officer  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street, Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Nelson:

**Engagement Letter—San Diego River Conservancy Grant Audit**

In accordance with our bond oversight responsibilities, the Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations, will audit the San Diego River Conservancy's grants issued by the California Natural Resources Agency.

<u>Grant Number</u>	<u>Interim Audit Period</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
40720-05	April 1, 2007 through April 12, 2012	\$833,843
40720-08	June 30, 2007 through April 12, 2012	\$136,169
40720-09	September 5, 2008 through April 12, 2012	\$787,562
40720-11	June 24, 2009 through April 12, 2012	\$577,846

The audit will be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to provide reasonable assurance that the state grant funds are expended as intended and specified in the grants. Accordingly, the audit will include tests of compliance with grant agreement provisions.

An entrance conference is scheduled with Ms. Julia Richards, Administrative Services Specialist, on April 9, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. At the entrance conference, the audit and reporting processes will be discussed. Following the entrance conference, we will require access to records and staff related to the engagement.

At the conclusion of fieldwork, written representations related to the engagement may be requested from management and/or your legal staff. An exit conference will also be conducted to discuss the results of the engagement. Finally, a draft report will be issued requesting your written response. Your response, if any, will be incorporated into the final report provided to the California Natural Resources Agency. The final report will be placed on our website.

Mr. Michael Nelson  
April 5, 2012  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Botkin, Manager, or Angie Williams, Supervisor, at (916) 322-2985.

Sincerely,



David Botelho, CPA  
Chief, Office of State Audits and Evaluations

cc: Mr. Bryan Cash, Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
Ms. Julie Alvis, Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
Ms. Polly Escovedo, Manager, Bonds and Grants, California Natural Resources Agency  
Ms. Laurie Heller, Grants Administrator, California Natural Resources Agency  
Ms. Linda Smith, Grants Administrator, California Natural Resources Agency  
Ms. Julia Richards, Administrative Services Specialist, San Diego River Conservancy



# News Release

## CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

10845 RANCHO BERNARDO ROAD, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92127  
VOICE (858) 673-6180, FAX (858) 673-6192, CRS/TTY 711



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Brian Harris 858-674-2984/619-937-1462

March 29, 2012

### **Partial Opening of Cedar Creek Falls and Access Trails**

**San Diego, CA.** Effective Sunday, April 1, 2012, the Cleveland National Forest is opening the east access to Cedar Creek Falls located near Julian, CA off of the Eagle Peak Road. The west access to Cedar Creek Falls and surrounding area, located in Ramona, CA off of the Thornbush Road, will remain closed.

A decision by the Cleveland National Forest allows for public access to Cedar Creek Falls only from the east entrance located off the Eagle Peak County Road in Pine Hills (near Julian).

For those using the east entrance please be aware of the following:

- The "difficult" 7 mile roundtrip trail is recommended for advanced hikers only!
- Parking is limited, and vehicles blocking road access will be towed at owner's expense.
- Alcohol possession and use in the area including the falls is prohibited.
- The cliffs surrounding the falls are closed to jumping and diving (swimming is allowed).
- Visitors are not required to have a permit at this time.
- Law enforcement agencies will be on site to enforce these rules.

"We're opening access to the falls from the east side as many hikers are very interested in regaining access to the area," said Joan Friedlander, District Ranger for the Palomar Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest. "We feel we can currently grant access from the east side in a manageable manner that provides for safety to the public, and allows forest visitors to enjoy this part of the Forest. We are continuing to work on a Management plan that will allow access from all Forest Service trails."

The Forest Service closed the falls and access to the falls on July 9, 2011 in order to provide time to design and implement a management plan that addresses issues of overcrowding, damaging impacts to natural resources and public safety. The Forest Service is studying potential solutions with partner agencies, and intends to make a decision on re-opening full access in summer, 2012.

-CNF-

Please note the Westside Truck Trail and Gower Truck Trail (13S10) that originate at or near the Thornbush Trailhead remain open for access to Gower. These trails/roads do not lead to Cedar Creek Falls and have not been closed.

# News Release

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# U.S. Forest Service National Forest System Talking Points

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Date: March 29, 2012

**Topic: R5, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego River Gorge (Cedar Creek Falls) Trail and Trailhead**

## **What is happening on April 1, 2012?**

- New Forest Orders issued by the Cleveland National Forest will allow restore public access to Cedar Creek Falls but only from the East entrance located off the Eagle Peak County Road in Pine Hills (near Julian).
- The trail system leading to Cedar Creek Falls from the Thornbush Trailhead remains closed at this time. The closure includes the area at the Thornbush Trailhead, trail to the falls and Forest Service lands at the end of Ramona Oaks Drive with the exception of the open West Side Truck Trail.

## **Why was the Cedar Creek Fall Trailhead, trail system and falls closed July 9, 2011?**

- The purpose of the closure is to give the Forest Service time to design and implement a management plan to address issues of overcrowding, resource impacts, and public safety

## **Why is the Forest Service reopening the east (Eagle Peak Rd, Pine Hills) entrance on April 1, 2012, but keeping the West (Thornbush Rd, Ramona) entrance closed?**

- We are progressing but not finished with new management rules for this area. The West entrance has is difficult to manage as almost unlimited parking takes place throughout the subdivision, and is adjacent to a residential neighborhood that was impacted by unregulated use last year.
- In contrast, the rural East entrance has comparatively less parking and therefore less visitation.
- Opening the east entrance also allows for hunter access with spring turkey season in full swing.

## **What should I know about the Parking at the East Entrance to Cedar Falls?**

- Parking is extremely limited.
- If visitors block the county roadway and emergency vehicles cannot pass, the Sherriff's Office, California Highway Patrol and or US Forest Service are likely to issue citations and vehicles blocking the roadway will be towed at owner expense.

## **When can I expect that the West entrance will be reopened?**

- A decision on whether or not a permit would be required to hike the trail in the future will not be made until the conclusion of the NEPA decision process in early summer, 2012.
- Instituting a permit system could address over-use and prevent conflicts with residents at the west entrance.
- Last year, as many as 750 vehicles parked outside of the Forest Service parking area in a single day in the adjacent residential neighborhood.
- A news release will be issued when this decision occurs and accurate information is available on our website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland>.

## **What rules should I be aware of before visiting the Falls via the East Entrance?**

- The trail is very steep and is a 7 mile round-trip hike recommended for only advanced hikers.
- Parking is limited and vehicles blocking county road access will be towed at owner expense.
- The West Side entrance located on Thornbush Road in Ramona remains closed.
- Alcohol possession and/or use are prohibited in this area.
- The cliffs surrounding Cedar Falls is closed to jumping and diving (swimming is still allowed).
- Visitors are not required to have a permit at this time.
- Camping, fireworks or fires continue to be strictly prohibited.
- Multiple law enforcement agencies have joined forces to enforce these rules.

Contact Brian Harris at 619-937-1463 ([bdharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:bdharris@fs.fed.us))



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District  
1634 Black Canyon Road  
Ramona, CA 92065-1205  
(760) 788-0250  
(760) 788-6130 FAX  
CRS 1-800 735-2922

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File Code: 1950

Date: April 13, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

This letter initiates the comment period for the *Cedar Creek Falls Visitor Permit Project*. I am informing you about this action because of your potential interest in this project.

The Palomar Ranger District has prepared a draft environmental assessment (Draft EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Draft EA addresses the District's proposal to designate a permit area in the vicinity of Cedar Creek Falls. Visitors to this area would be required to obtain a visitor use permit through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). This proposal also includes a prohibition on the possession of alcohol in a larger area surrounding Cedar Creek Falls and the closure of the cliffs at the falls to public entry. This proposal would address concerns related to:

- Public health and safety at Cedar Creek Falls and on the San Diego River Gorge Trail
- Resource impacts stemming from high levels of recreational use at Cedar Creek Falls and on the San Diego River Gorge Trail
- Impacts to the San Diego Country Estates (SDCE) neighborhood adjacent to the San Diego River Gorge Trailhead that stem from high levels of recreational use at Cedar Creek Falls
- Compromised emergency and administrative access along Eagle Peak Road during periods of high recreational use at Cedar Creek Falls

Following the construction of the San Diego River Gorge Trail I heard from many of you about a number of concerns. Specifically, you were concerned with the following issue: 1) trail users are parking on the residential streets; 2) trail users are leaving trash at the trailhead and along the trail; 3) some trail users are unprepared for the challenging terrain leading to Cedar Creek Falls and need to be rescued; 4) some forest users are jumping from the cliffs into the pool below Cedar Creek Falls, which has resulted in severe injuries and fatalities; and 5) some groups are using the trailhead area and the area around Cedar Creek Falls for partying, including illegal activities.

This Draft EA addresses these concerns plus a number of resource issues that need to be corrected along the trail system and at Cedar Creek Falls. It can be obtained online at



<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/cleveland/projects>, or by contacting Bjorn Fredrickson, District Recreation and Lands Officer at 760-788-0250 x3327, or via email at [bfredrickson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bfredrickson@fs.fed.us).

### **How You Can Provide Input**

You can provide your input to our proposal in a number of ways.

Written or oral comments may be submitted to: Bjorn Fredrickson, Recreation and Lands Officer, Palomar Ranger District, 1634 Black Canyon Road, Ramona, CA 92065; TEL: 760-788-0250 x3327; FAX 760-788-6130; EMAIL [bfredrickson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bfredrickson@fs.fed.us). In-person comments can be delivered to the address above between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on normal business days.

Comments must be received or postmarked by the end of the 30-day comment period for this proposal. The comment period begins with publication of a legal notice of scoping in the San Diego *Union Tribune*. The publication date is scheduled to be on or around April 17, 2012.

To be eligible for appeal rights, persons who submit comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Names and addresses of persons making comments will become part of the public record. Only persons who provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposal during the scoping or comment periods will have appeal rights. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.

We appreciate your interest and continuing cooperation and support. Should you have any questions, or need additional information about this project, please contact me or Bjorn Fredrickson, Recreation and Lands Officer for the Palomar Ranger District at 760-788-0250 x3327 or by email at [bfredrickson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bfredrickson@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

*/s/Joan Friedlander*  
JOAN FRIEDLANDER  
District Ranger

## **SELECTED MEDIA**

### **MCCOY HOUSE PROVIDES VIEW OF SAN DIEGO HISTORY**

By Louis Shook - San Diego Union Tribune (April 6, 2012)

### **SAN DIEGO RIVER PACT REACHED**

By Karen Pearlman - San Diego Union Tribune (April 8, 2012)

### **SANTEE'S TOWN CENTER PARK SHOWCASED IN RIVER RUN**

By Karen Pearlman - San Diego Union Tribune (April 10, 2012)

### **2012 SAN DIEGO RIVER RUN THROUGH SANTEE**

By [Steven Bartholow](#) – Santee Patch (April 14, 2012)

# MCCOY HOUSE PROVIDES VIEW OF SAN DIEGO HISTORY

By Union-Tribune

12:01 a.m., April 8, 2012  
Updated 12:40 p.m. , April 6, 2012

Louis Shook

SPECIAL TO THE U-T

McCoy built the house as a wedding present to his wife, Winifred Kearney of Los Angeles. The architectural style of the house is Greek revival. It has a columned front porch that was popular among wealthy 19th-century Americans.

The house was built on property that was adjacent to the San Diego River. The course of the river changed several times over the years. At the time McCoy built his house, the river flowed into San Diego Bay. Nearly ten years later the river was diverted to its present course by building a channel to direct the flow more directly to the ocean. Today, the Old Town Trolley station and tracks are located where the river flowed when McCoy built his house.

McCoy was a man of strong personality. He had his friends, also some bitter enemies. According to a May 5, 1869 article in the San Diego Weekly Union, "The McCoy Home loomed up over the rest of the houses in the neighborhood in about the same proportion that its owner did over his late competitor in the race for sheriff."

Born in 1821 in Ireland, McCoy came to America in 1842. While in the army he came to San Diego in 1849. In 1859, he was elected county assessor. He was elected sheriff in 1861 and was re-elected five times. In 1871, he became state senator. He was a city trustee for 14 years and took an active part in the public initiatives. While city trustee McCoy was involved with Charles Taggart and others, in a tidelands speculation, over which a political controversy raged. Both James and Winnifred died in their home before it fell into disrepair after World War I. They had no children.

When McCoy built his home, it would have made quite an impression because wood was an expensive building material compared to the adobe or brick used for building many of the early homes in Old Town. The McCoy House was reconstructed in 2000 by the California State Parks. Archaeological evidence indicates there was an earlier adobe structure located on this site. Although early ownership is unclear, prior to 1851 the property belonged to Maria Eugenia Silvas, descendant

of a Spanish Colonial soldier who came to Alta California in the 1770s. A portion of it has been preserved and interpreted as part of a series of displays on Old Town and its history.

The McCoy House Museum is open daily and admission is free. Just take the Trolley to the Old Town Station and walk to this historic house and enjoy a view of early San Diego.

Louis Shook is a freelance writer in Encinitas. He can be contacted at [lou.shook@yahoo.com](mailto:lou.shook@yahoo.com).



# **The San Diego Union-Tribune.**

## **San Diego River pact reached**

By Karen Pearlman

Sunday, April 8, 2012

SANTEE — The city of San Diego says it has reached a tentative agreement to lease its land at Carlton Oaks County Club to the golf course's owner, and it won't be sold to a private party, a development that cheered environmentalists and the San Diego River Conservancy.

The city will lease 64.3 acres along the San Diego River to TY Investment Inc. for 40 years. San Diego owns approximately 106.6 acres of land along the San Diego River.

The lease is on a month-to-month basis, generating annual revenue of \$237,869.76. TY Investment owns 105 acres of property on the north and east sides of the city property and operates the golf course.

The proposal will be shared at the San Diego City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Council Committee Room on the 12th floor of the City Administration Building at 202 C St. in San Diego.

It calls for TY Investment to pay the city \$150,000 a year for 20 years. The next 20 years will be determined by future fair market value.

The San Diego River Conservancy now will have rights to develop a public trail along the banks of the river. A city report notes that San Diego reserves all of its rights to the water, to protect the water quality, to monitor the level and quality of natural surface and groundwater over and under the premises.

The city property was acquired in 1933 as part of the lands for the never-built Mission Reservoir and to allow the dredging of the San Diego River. The northern portion of the city property has been leased for golf course purposes since 1959.





## 2012 San Diego River Run Through Santee

82 runners from Santee, nearly more dogs than people, and all in support of the 52-mile San Diego River Trail that will one day run from the mountains of Julian to the sea at Ocean Beach.

By [Steven Bartholow](#), April 14, 2012



### Photos

Credit: [Steven Bartholow](#)

[Lakeside River Park Conservancy's](#) 5th annual [San Diego River Run](#) started out early Saturday morning in the bitter cold, between bouts of rain, from Town Center Park East in Santee.

296 runners, 82 from Santee, completed the race, including two four-year-old runners and an 82-year-old runner from Santee. Councilmember [Jack Dale](#) revved up the crowd before the run and joined in the festivities.

Trey Robak, 11, was the youngest runner in the top ten, and quickest Santee runner, coming in ninth overall, with a clock time of 23:53. Rudolfo Zuniga, of El Cajon, placed first, with a time of 17:39.

Dogs were invited to this year's run, and there were almost more pups than people!

This family-friendly race highlights a different San Diego River trail each year. This course showcased the diversity of the San Diego River and highlighted Santee's recreational amenities, starting at [Town Center Community Park East](#), and continuing to [Mast Park](#), back through [Trolley Square](#).

This run is a fundraiser for [Lakeside's River Park Conservancy](#), which hoped to raise \$25,000 to help get closer to their overall goal of being part of the [52-mile San Diego River Trail](#) that will one day run from the mountains of Julian to the sea at Ocean Beach





## **Santee's Town Center Park showcased in River Run**

By Karen Pearlman

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

SANTEE — If the Lakeside River Park Conservancy has anything to say about it, the San Diego River Trail will be a reality sooner rather than later.

"Eventually, it's going to be 52 miles long," said conservancy Executive Director Robin Rierdan about plans for the riverside trail that would run from past Julian to Ocean Beach. "It's going to happen in our lifetime."

To help bring the dream closer more quickly, the group is holding the San Diego River Run on Saturday. The 5K run and walk fundraiser starts at 8 a.m. at Santee Town Center Park East.

Last year's race drew 500 participants. Rierdan said she hopes that this year's race, which takes runners through the park and heads east onto a trail at Cottonwood Drive, goes along further trails and ends up back at the park, will draw even more runners and walkers.

"We want to highlight different segments of the river every (event)," Rierdan said. "This is an opportunity for people to see some new trails and the nice facility at the beautiful Santee Town Community Center Park and see how the trails are going to run."

"Also for some, they will get to see where the San Diego River is. Some people don't know. It's a great chance for people to see part of the river they don't get to see and give them a taste of what's coming."

Dogs on nonretractable 6-foot fixed leashes are welcome to the event. There will be water bowls at the start of the race as well as water stations along the route for the two-legged runners, as well as water for all at the finish.

The event starts and finishes at Town Center Community Park East, just behind the Cameron Family YMCA, at 550 Park Center Drive. Cost for adults is \$25 before Saturday and \$30 the day of the race. For youths 17 and under, the cost is \$15 before; \$20 on race day.

For more information or to register for the event, visit [sandiegoriverrun.com/](http://sandiegoriverrun.com/)

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of May 3, 2012**

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2012 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of May 3, 2012**

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**