

Staff Report (Item 14)

**”Five-Year Infrastructure Plan
to
Support Future Budget Requests”**

Most of my planning time to date has been spent researching the type of (1) plan (purpose, contents); (2) contract agreement; and (3) consultant that would best fit the San Diego River Conservancy’s needs and make the most efficient use of our reappropriated FY 03/04 dollars.

It is my recommendation at this time that the Conservancy proceed with development of a “*Five-Year Infrastructure Plan*” (which is the state equivalent of a local “*Capital Outlay Plan*”). The four-fold purpose of our *Five-Year Infrastructure Plan* will be to:

- (1) Direct the Conservancy’s course for the next five years;**
- (2) Define and establish Conservancy Programs, Projects, and Priorities;**
- (3) Estimate and document the Capital Outlay needed to achieve the Conservancy’s mission over the next five years; and**
- (4) Provide the basis for the Conservancy’s future request for a Capital Outlay line-item and the funding needed to achieve our mission.**

As you know, the San Diego River Conservancy’s current budget does not contain a Capital Outlay line-item. One of my most important goals as your Executive Officer is to secure Capital Outlay funds for our budget. By providing strong justification to support future Budget Requests,¹ development of a *Five-Year Infrastructure Plan* will be an important step towards that goal.

As you agreed at the May 21, 2004 Board Meeting, our *Five-Year Infrastructure Plan* will follow a “*Programmatic*” rather than a “land use master plan” approach. Conservancy Programs will be based on Statutory Objectives and implemented through a series of Projects. Projects will be based on (and extracted from) all existing River Park planning documents². All of these documents have been (or will be) thoroughly vetted through the public process and supported by the community.

Each Conservancy Project will be defined in terms of (1) Resource Need (how will the Project meet one or more Statutory Objective?); (2) Implementation Strategy (how will the Project get done and by whom?) and (3) Estimated Project Cost.

The Conservancy’s *Five-Year Infrastructure Plan* will be an “*inter-jurisdictional*” or “*Regional*” plan. The plan will be designed to transcend jurisdictional boundaries and emphasize the “*common*” vision and goals contained within the (individual jurisdiction) Master Plans and (nonprofit) Conceptual Plans. Two important priorities that we will

(seek to) build into our Infrastructure Plan include (1) equitable representation and distribution of resources across all jurisdictions; and (2) strong community support.

Status of Contracting

An early step in the development of an *Infrastructure Plan* is selection of a consultant(s). One important role of our consultant(s) will be to estimate the (component and total) costs of each Project.

I am currently in the process of exploring state contracting alternatives. An *Interagency Agreement* (IAA) is a contract between state agencies, or between a state agency and a university (or university affiliate). Interagency Agreements are relatively simple and fast to execute. Possible candidates include State Coastal Conservancy; other state conservancy; California State Poly Pomona Studio 606 (Landscape Architecture); (individual) university affiliate; and Department of Fish and Game.

Consultant Services Agreements are state contracts with nonprofits or private entities. Consultant Services Agreements are executed through a formal advertised bidding process and can take up to 6 months.

I also plan to explore a (1) statewide *Master Agreement* (which is contract with a private consultant that is bid through the Department of General Services for use by many state departments); (2) contract with USDA Forest Service; and (3) contract with a public agency Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).

Strategic Planning

Because Five-Year Infrastructure Planning is needed to quantify and support future Budget Requests, I believe it is currently our highest planning priority. Development of a Strategic Plan (which is a separate plan with a different purpose) is also important but not as urgent. For this reason, it is my recommendation at this time that we focus our resources on the development of a Five-Year Infrastructure Plan.

¹ Budget Requests (also known as Budget Change Proposals or BCPs) are sequentially submitted to the Resources Agency, Department of Finance, various Legislative Budget Committees, the Legislature, and Governor.

² San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan (City of San Diego); San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan (San Diego River Park Foundation); San Diego River Draft Watershed Management Plan (County of San Diego), Santee's San Diego River Park Plan (City of Santee), Conceptual Plan for Lakeside's River Park (Lakeside's River Park Conservancy), relevant Community Plans, Regional Growth Management Strategy (SANDAG), etc.