

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
August 11, 2006

ITEM: **12**

SUBJECT: **Other Priority Projects and Request for Prop 40 Funds.**

The Executive Officer will update the Board on the status of three other priority project proposals. All three proposals are in the early planning stages and in need of funding. The Board will consider adoption of Tentative Resolution 06-09. All projects are included in the Conservancy's adopted Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan (Program 2, Project 2.1; Program 3, Projects 1.1 and 1.2).

- a. **Sefton Field Park.** Mission Valley Reach with partner City of San Diego.
- b. **Estuary Signage.** Estuary Reach with partner San Diego River Park Foundation.
- c. **Invasive Species Mapping and Removal.** Commencing downstream from El Capital Dam (El Monte Valley) with partner Endangered Habitats League.

PURPOSE: Information only. *I recommend postponing Board action on this item.* Update the Governing Board on the current status of three "other" priority projects in the early planning stages and the upcoming need for Prop 40 funding.

DISCUSSION: In July 2004 and again in September 2004, City staff presented the Board with an overview of each of its six highest priority acquisition projects. The Board informally approved these projects and directed me and City staff to advance and secure any one or all of these properties as soon as possible. It was the intention of the Governing Board at that time, that one or more of these properties would be purchased with the remaining \$5 million balance of the original Prop 40 funds (in the Resource Agency budget earmarked for the San Diego River). In other words, the \$5 million Prop 40 balance was informally reserved by this Board for the purchase of one or more of these six acquisitions within the City of San Diego.

Several months ago when it became clear that the neither (1) any of the six priority acquisitions within the City of San Diego; nor (2) any other acquisitions elsewhere within the Conservancy's jurisdiction were imminent, I made the decision to pursue an alternate plan for the timely expenditure of the remaining \$5 million Prop 40 funds. As I subsequently explained to Board, the

alternate plan involves the expenditure of the Prop 40 funds on the development of several important *trail segments or other priority projects* which would serve to make the River Park real and usable to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. This alternate plan is supported by the Conservancy's *Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan* and embodied in Projects 2 and 3 of Program 2, the Conservancy's Recreation and Education Program.

The Conservancy and its partners have made significant progress with the development of several important trail segments as described in Agenda Item 10 above; two of which are ready for Governing Board action (and Prop 40 funding requests) today.

The focus of this Agenda Item is the "other" priority projects envisioned in the alternate plan to expend the \$5 million Prop 40 balance. Working closely with our partners, the Conservancy has identified several "other" priority projects that are consistent with the Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan and in need of Prop 40 funding. Of those, the three most important "other" projects are (a) **Sefton Field Park**; (b) **Estuary Signage**; and (c) **Invasive Species Mapping and Removal**. For each of these three projects, it is anticipated that one of the Conservancy's partners will assume the lead role and serve as applicant for the Prop 40 grant funds. The Conservancy's role will be limited primarily to formal support (by way of resolution) for the use of the Prop 40 funds for each project. The Conservancy would also facilitate the issuance of the Prop 40 grant and the conduct of the project in any way possible.

At the time of writing this report, none of the three projects are as far along as I had hoped, and although underway, none of the Prop 40 applications are currently ready for submittal to the Resources Agency. For this reason I am recommending that Board action on this Item be postponed. Nevertheless it is important to make the Governing Board and the Resources Agency aware of the projects and the upcoming need for Prop 40 project funding. I will be happy to present a brief overview and status report to the Board on each of the three other projects, time permitting.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None at this time

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS: None.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.