

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,

November 14, 2019
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Drive
Conference Room, 1st Floor
San Diego, CA 92108

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:
Wendell Taper (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 September 12, 2019 meeting.

3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

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*)

San Diego River Conservancy's Consortium Program Update (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Update:

Ben Clay, Chairman San Diego River Conservancy

Elsa Saxod, Chairwoman, Tijuana River Watershed Advisory Panel

Clarissa Falcon, Chairwoman, Otay and Sweetwater Rivers Watershed Advisory Panels

5. Deputy Attorney General Report (*INFORMATIONAL/ ACTION*)

6. Health and Safety Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)

7. Mission Valley Community Plan Update from the City of San Diego

(*INFORMATIONAL*) The City of San Diego adopted an update to the Mission Valley Community Plan, in September 2019. The plan allows for a significant increase in housing by designating many existing commercial areas for mixed use development, while maintaining specialized protections for the area adjacent to the San Diego River and steep hillsides.

Presentation:

Nancy Graham, Development Project Manager

City of San Diego, Planning Department

8. Feral Pigs in the San Diego River Watershed (*INFORMATIONAL*) Currently it is estimated that there are fewer than a dozen feral pigs in the backcountry, mostly along the San Diego River and on lands owned and managed by the Cleveland National Forest, California State Parks, City of San Diego Public Utilities District and the Barona and Viejas tribal reservations.

Presentation:

Megan Jennings, Ph.D., Research Ecologist

Co-Director, Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management

San Diego State University

9. Greening San Diego Program (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

Presentation:

Julia Richards, Executive Officer

San Diego River Conservancy

10. 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:

- Proposition 68 Update

- USFS work program to include the San Diego River Trail
- Helix Water District surplus property in El Monte Valley

11. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held January 9, 2020, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

12. 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 Wendell Taper at 619-645-3183 or Dustin Harrison 619-525-4094

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**
The Board will consider adoption of the **September 12, 2019** Board Meeting.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the Board Meeting are attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of September 12, 2019 Public Meeting
(Draft Minutes for Approval on November 14, 2019)

CONSERVANCY Board Chair, Ben Clay called the September 12, 2019 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Item 1. Roll Call

Members Present

Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board (Via Phone 2:08pm)
John Elliott	Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
Clarissa Falcon	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Stephen Houlahan	City of Santee
Chris Lief	Department of Finance
Gina Moran	Department of Parks and Recreation
Joshua Nelson	Natural Resources Agency (Via Phone)
Elsa Saxod	Public at Large
Gail Sevens	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Cody Petterson	Speaker of the Assembly
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Conrad Wear	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Kimberly Weinstein	Department of Parks and Recreation

Absent

Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Scott Sherman	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7

Staff Members Present

Julia Richards	Executive Officer
Wendell Taper	Administrative Services Manager
Dustin Harrison	Environmental Scientist
Hayley Peterson	Deputy Attorney General

Item 2. Approval of Minutes

Clarissa Falcon moved for approval of the minutes for the September 12, 2019 meeting and Stephen Houlahan seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Josh Nelson, Chris Lief, Gina Moran, Kimberly Weinstein, Gail Sevens, Cody Petterson, Conrad Wear, John Elliott, Stephen Houlahan, Clarissa Falcon, Elsa Saxod (13-0-0)

Item 3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

No public comment.

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

Ben Clay announced the San Diego River Conservancy's new intern, Megan Woodring, will be assisting with various tasks for the Conservancy. She is working on GIS tracking and mapping.

The community came together on July 16th, the City of San Diego and the San Diego History Center had a commemoration and recognition of San Diego's 250 years, including Native Americans who have been here for a long time. The exhibits the Conservancy is paying for are an upgrade to the Presidio which will be available for the public to view. One of the interesting aspects of the event was raising the Kumeyaay flag and community coming together. The mayor, pro Tempore Toni Atkins and others spoke there.

Stephen Houlahan thanked the Board for a grant that was given to the City of Santee for Mast Park improvements. The park has been closed for 10 months now, but will open in December. Another grant from the Conservancy helped install a large trash collection device in Mast Park. This piece of equipment is useful and fully functional. The upgraded features at the park are more sustainable. Also, Sycamore Creek has received funding from this Board for restoration and the removal of non-native vegetation allows native vegetation to thrive. Unfortunately, an individual died from a fire there in the past.

Money has been put to good use to restore and deter others from entering the creek. The City of Santee intends outreach so this board is not financially responsible.

Ben Clay thanked Stephen and is glad to hear the improvements to Mast Park. He congratulated Santee for their efforts. Cody Petterson lives in the backcountry and the Conservancy asked him to get involved on behalf of the Board in the reforestation efforts in the upper watershed.

Cody Petterson thanked Ben for the introduction and noted it is cone collection time for conifer species. A coalition with Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, the San Diego River Conservancy, United States Forest Service, CalFire and the Volcan Mountain Foundation spent two weeks collecting cones. Lisa Gonzales-Kramer is directing the reforestation project and the Conservancy has awarded grants to help fund this important effort. The last remaining sugar pine population is on Cuyamaca Peak. It is the farthest southern population in the United States although there are some in Baja California. They want to collect cones from the farthest southern population since they are pre-adapted to the climate the state is likely to face in the future.

The group observed Ponderosa and Jeffrey pine maturity. If cones are open, they could lose seeds. The seeds fill out the chamber and were determined to almost be ready. Genetic sampling run by the US Forest Service are collecting samples throughout the state. It is important to collect as many samples as possible to include genetic diversity.

Contractors were recruited to collect seeds because the conditions required professional certification. A ladder is used to climb the trees with a couple of ropes. They stand on a branch and shake it until the cone falls. They could also use a slingshot to rig the tree.

CalFire recently got the L.A. Moran Nursey off the ground so they are excited to be engaged. A total of 42 bushels of big cone, 25 bushels sugar pine, 12 bushels of white fir, and 5 bushels of Coulter pine which equates to 250,000 seedlings. It's exciting to get involved and collaborate.

Ben Clay asked where are the seeds stored.

Cody Petterson responded the Placerville nursery run by US Forest Service. The Placerville Nursery has a big refrigerator and processes them in drums to sort seeds and test them through an x-ray machine for viability. It is possible to plant these but he guessed it would be the following year.

Ben Clay mentioned the Cuyamaca Mountains are the headwaters for the San Diego River, Sweetwater River, Otay River and Tijuana River. It is important to gather seeds and replant after fires. Improving the health helps water quality.

Item 5. Deputy Attorney General Report (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Hayley Peterson No report.

Item 6. Health and Safety Report (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Ben Clay mentioned he would like to know the City of San Diego's plan for Mission Valley. Since he sits on the Qualcomm Advisory Board, there are homeless down there. The mayor commented that an ordinance prevents tents on sidewalks, so Ben wants to do the same thing for the river. Ben asked where are the homeless going?

Conrad Wear added there has been a reduction in homelessness in the area. Down to 16 from one hundred last year. He urged efforts can be improved by coordinating with the City of San Diego. Officers typically will give them shelter options. They are concerned about fires.

Item 7. Plume Updates for the San Diego River Watershed (INFORMATIONAL)

Sean McClain introduced himself as geologist with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's (SDRWQCB) Groundwater Cleanup Program. He gave a brief overview of the cleanup progress for two projects: Mission Valley and El Cajon. The Mission Valley terminal had a plume from property to freeways. It has shrunk down to non-detect levels. 2013 groundwater monitoring did not result in any contamination. In 2014, Kinder Morgan has begun on-terminal cleanup. In October of 2018, groundwater monitoring continues with groundwater and soil samples. The system is effective at removing petroleum contamination.

After the case is closed, SDRWQCB wants monitoring to continue. They also require groundwater wells to be destroyed prior to San Diego State University taking over the site. They directed Kinder Morgan to destroy the wells 3 years ago. No one is maintaining the wells and therefore is a potential threat. The City of San Diego has not granted a Right of Entry to do that work. These wells are a potential threat to water quality. A lot of public activities occur on top of their groundwater monitoring network. Attorneys are in contact with each other. The City wants them to apply prevailing wage which Kinder Morgan refuses.

Ben Clay thanked Sean. He mentioned he was briefed and things are going slow. He is interested in the progress.

Sean McClain mentioned the hydraulic barrier could collect pollution. This was a massive remediation discharging 1.2 million gallons a day to gather vapor. Exposed gasoline cleans up quickly.

Clarissa Falcon asked what is the impact of prevailing wage.

Sean McClain responded half million dollars. Just to destroy the well is \$2 million. Overall, this cleanup was about \$75 million completed in about 8 years for the off terminal.

Moving on to the El Cajon project area, the stream restoration area Reach 3 poses a concern because of the

groundwater cleanups. Two sites are next to reach number 3. Depth to groundwater is well below bottom of stream bed so he doesn't anticipate any issues. The closed cases were small releases, the soil was cleaned and the County of San Diego closed them. High bacteria and nutrients occur in the Bradley area.

The next item of concern was the Amatek cleanup plume. Chlorinated solvent release from 1960's has restoration areas. He doesn't anticipate reaching contaminants from this restoration project. Remediation is ongoing. This cleanup could go on for another decade or more looking at natural attenuation of the plume.

Item 8. Broadway Creek Improvement Project – Phase A - Proposition 1 (ACTION)

Julia Richards Items 8 through 10 are staff recommendations for approval of funding. The first is the City of El Cajon's Broadway Creek Improvement Project (Phase A) which is located in the San Diego River Watershed and in a disadvantaged community. It is on land owned by the City of El Cajon in the County of San Diego. The project achieves 4 purposes of Proposition 1 Chapter 6 Section A, 1-13. It promotes 4 state and 4 regional plans, provides multi benefits, including reducing the risk of flood, restoring native habitat and improving water quality. The project is supported by the San Diego River Conservancy Act and its Strategic Plan. Staff recommends approval of Resolution 19-07 in the amount of \$750,000 to the City of El Cajon to implement flood control, restoration of habitat and improve water quality of this creek which drains Broadway Creek to Forester Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River.

Jeffrey Manchester introduced himself as Principal Civil Engineer with City of El Cajon. This project brings value to residents and the watershed. The project aligns with the goals of the grant program. Gary Yagade is with Harris and Associates to go over technical details.

Gary Yagade thanked the Board and reviewed the project aspects. The existing channel is small, has eroding banks and can only convey a small storm event. The community is near the FEMA floodplain and life and property are the utmost concern for this project. Pictures of recent rain events shows non-native invasive vegetation and the channel almost at capacity. A vicinity map shows the project in the lower right-hand corner east of Highway 67 and north of Highway 8. The channel drains into Forester Creek and then to the San Diego River. Zoom in shows Phase A of the project with Broadway and Ballantyne. It takes two 90 degree turns northwestward through apartments and homes. It is in a disadvantaged community. The east west segment is within the County of San Diego which the city has been coordinating with regarding the overall concept and future maintenance.

The biggest problem in this area are eroded side slopes, which the Regional Water Quality Control Board suggests to install rip-rap along the banks. Proposed improvements includes native vegetation, trees and earthen channel with meandering stream. He displayed a cross section. This project meets the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and goals by restoring native riparian habitat and improving flood conveyance.

El Cajon Staff are currently in the preliminary engineering phase and are working with various regulatory agencies to produce design and engineering plans for restoration. Construction anticipated start date is June 2020. Estimated project cost at \$3 million. A local developer as well as the Conservancy's previous grant awarded to the City of El Cajon are matching funds.

John Donnelly asked about both sides of the project and if restoration has been proposed.

Jeffrey Manchester responded Phase A is the first phase of a 5-phase project. The most southerly reach is Phase A. They plan to complete B-E as they work with the County of San Diego and pursue funding to complete the remaining phases.

Ben Clay expanded on John's question and asked what happens if a high velocity flow enters an improved stream. Commercial industrial activity out there what can be done to clean the water?

Jeffrey Manchester replied that will be part of the engineering approach balancing between bio and engineering. That likely requires energy dissipation upstream and downstream to not release high velocity to unimproved section. That is part of the design. They are planning wetland seed habitat on channel bottom and on the banks a riparian mix. Base flow is substantial so there will be enough water to flourish. They will select the plant palette.

Josh Nelson asked about future funding. Will the project be effective with no additional funds?

Jeffrey Manchester responded the project is a stand-alone. The request today is to fund Phase A. Each phase acts independent with target actions for the City of El Cajon.

Stephen Houlahan is familiar with this area and recognized it's in need of support because of the Ametek Plume. He is El Cajon's sister city, Santee, which has also invested in Forester Creek restoration efforts. He appreciated John's question and said it makes sense to reduce velocity upstream. He moved to approve Resolution 19-07.

John Elliott volunteered Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy to work with the City of El Cajon and present a native plant list that will be helpful.

Gail Sevrens reminded the Board their role as regulatory agency. All projects that might come before them as a trustee or permitting agency is considered separate and they are still subject to review.

Gary Strawn thanked the City of El Cajon because he believes these improvements can reduce pollution in the San Diego River Watershed. This is the right solution. Downstream near the airport is a challenge. Improvements in water quality have been detected elsewhere and hopes the project has similar results. A maintenance program for five years showed native plants grew quickly.

Jeffrey Manchester replied to Gary's comment and said the Forester Creek Restoration Project has a similar scope of work.

Stephen Houlahan moved for approval of Resolution 19-07 and **John Elliott** seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Josh Nelson, Chris Lief, Gina Moran, Kimberly Weinstein, Gail Sevrens, Cody Petterson, Conrad Wear, John Elliott, Stephen Houlahan, Clarissa Falcon, Elsa Saxod (13-0-0)

Item 9. Sycamore Canyon Invasive Control Project – Proposition 1 (ACTION)

Julia Richards introduced Jennifer Price from the County of San Diego (County). The County's proposed project is for invasive removal and control in Sycamore Canyon Preserve. It is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy, achieves 5 purposes of Proposition 1; promotes 1 state and regional plan, provides multi benefits including removing invasive non-native vegetation and restoration for a more native habitat and promotes a wildlife corridor. The project is supported by the San Diego River Conservancy Act and Strategic Plan and staff recommends approval of Resolution 19-08 to provide funding in the amount of \$203,000 to restore habitat along Sycamore Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River.

Jennifer Price thanked the Board for inviting her to present on the Sycamore Canyon Goodan Ranch Preserve (Preserve) Targeted Invasive Non-Native Plant Treatment Project (Project). The preserve is located east of MCAS Miramar, south of Scripps Parkway and West of State Route 67 and north of the City of Santee, it is 2,570 acres. The Preserve supports coast live oak riparian forest, grasslands, chaparral and disturbed freshwater marsh. Some areas have burned as much of 4 times. As a result of fires, the Preserve has experienced an increase in invasive non-native plants woody trees and shrubs. Salt cedar and eucalyptus have colonized the creek and ranger station and serve as fuel for wildfires. The proposed project area is 32 acres in size and the County will concentrate efforts in Sycamore Canyon Creek and oak woodland habitat adjacent to preserve ranger station.

These invasive non-native plants are impacting the riparian habitat. Up to 21 eucalyptus trees are proposed to be treated. Close proximity to the ranger station poses a fire threat. This two-year project has methods for various sized vegetation. Seed heads will be bagged and disposed of every 30 days after initial treatment. The California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) or other suitable monitoring methodology will be used to determine percent cover non-native plants. Onsite staff will continue treatment areas by monitoring re-sprouts of treated stumps and passive re-vegetation after two-year treatment period.

Ruth Hayward took a tour of Goodan Ranch by the Preserve ranger and the Friends of Goodan Ranch. There are rare plants. She advised the County to be aware of the plants and make sure they don't get damaged.

Jennifer Price responded their consultants are experienced with native plants and flag them before treatment to ensure avoidance.

John Donnelly asked about upstream conditions and wanted to know if integrity of the project would be maintained. From an invasive species perspective, there is a seedbank upstream.

Jennifer Price mentioned adjacent land owners are in contact on a frequent basis. So, County staff could find out about conditions that have potential to affect project integrity.

Stephen Houlahan added he is on the Goodan Ranch Advisory Committee. Those non-natives plants were probably brought there by human activity. There is another watershed due east of that area. He mentioned there are invasive plant species out there and moved to approve Resolution 19-08.

John Elliott asked about passive vegetation. Although there have been many fires in the past, passive vegetation is not going to bring back the woodlands. His people have been actively planting for 10,000 years. Passive re-vegetation doesn't work. He looks forward to seeing the plans.

Jennifer Price responded passive re-vegetation allows native plants to grow on their own. If County staff does not see recruitment, they will consider other methods.

Stephen Houlahan added they are planting 120 oaks a year on the Preserve.

John Elliott requested a tour of the Preserve.

Stephen Houlahan moved for approval of Resolution 19-08 and **Cody Petterson** seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Josh Nelson, Chris Lief, Gina Moran, Kimberly Weinstein, Gail Sevrens, Cody Petterson, Conrad Wear, John Elliott, Stephen Houlahan, Clarissa Falcon, Elsa Saxod (13-0-0)

Item 10. Wells Park Improvement Project– Proposition 1 (ACTION)

Julia Richards summarized the Wells Park Improvement Project (Project) from the City of El Cajon. It is for installation of permanent storm water quality improvements. The project is within the San Diego River Watershed, located in a severely disadvantaged community and bordered by other disadvantaged communities. It achieves three purposes of Proposition 1, it promotes state and regional plans, provided multi benefits and is support by the San Diego River Conservancy Act and Strategic Plan. Conservancy staff recommend approval of Resolutions 19-09 to provide funding in the amount of \$400,000 to the City of El Cajon to install low impact developments to decrease risk of flooding and improve water quality. She welcomed Jeffrey Manchester from the City of El Cajon and Ross Duenas of Chen Ryan.

Jeffrey Manchester added this project provides valuable benefits to disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities near the park. It aligns with the Wells Park Master Plan. He introduced Ross from Chen Ryan and Associates to review the technical components of the project.

Ross Duenas thanked the Board and stated Wells Park is one of the most active parks in the city. An 18-acre facility includes large playground fitness courses, dog run and two boys and girls club. This area sits within a severely disadvantaged community and drains to Forester Creek. Statistics show there is 1.5 acres per thousand residents which is well below the states' goal of 5- or 6-acres park space per thousand residents. This facility is key to the community it which it resides.

Programs include updating irrigation would make the park more sustainable. A future splash pad, storm water harvesting system, deep underground well and education component with trees and signage. One aspect of the master plan is installation of the Sherriff station.

The project objective is to improve water quality. Targeting specific pollutants such as phosphorus and total suspended solids (TSS). the project promotes the Water Action Plan. Specifically, water quality and flood conveyance from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. Two proposed bioretentions will operate as one basin. Three offsite treatment locations are proposed as well.

A conceptual graphic shows water entering from the road and park. Water would enter basin vegetated with native plants. Water then percolates into soil media where plants uptake to reduced nutrients. Water enters p-gravel to filter then is stored and maintained as groundwater recharge. An overflow pipe and underdrain pipe will direct flows to Forester Creek. Treatment is usually reached by filtration, sedimentation and sorption and plant uptake through roots.

The proposed bioretention basin will have a footprint of nearly 2,000 square feet which can treat 2 acres untreated tributary area. The basin will provide 17,000 gallons per storm event and be able to recharge roughly 16,000 gallons into the ground. They have an accepted removal rate of 75% phosphorous, 95% metals and 90% TSS.

There are alternate treatment methods that mimic bioretention. Three units proposed for installation consist of top layer, bioretention soils, mulch and sand, are just as effective of treating target pollutants. Located upstream of the curb inlet is a suggested location of installation.

Preliminary engineering and environmental review will commence if grant is awarded. Following would be final design and permitting. The City of El Cajon is committed to having the project shovel ready within the first year. There will be pre- and post-monitoring to quantify the effectiveness of these facilities.

Ben Clay asked if these devices have been used elsewhere.

Ross Duenas responded, yes, they are approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Gail Sevrens asked the City of El Cajon to elaborate on the pre- and post-monitoring.

Jeffrey Manchester part of the project will develop a plan to collect baseline data. Following the project, they expect several post-construction monitoring sampling and reports to be done especially in the wet season to determine the effectiveness of this project.

Conrad Wear asked about the anticipated maintenance cost.

Jeffrey Manchester responded that question has been vetted through the Public Works Department. Those devices typically require trash removal quarterly and bioretention soil needs to be replaced as well. A \$400,000 project would be about 5-10% per year for maintenance.

Clarissa Falcon asked other than phosphorous, what are the other chemicals being extracted. Where would one dispose of them?

Ross Duenas explained heavy metals, zinc, copper and total suspended solids. As Jeff mentioned they deposit themselves in the media. Over time they are cleaned out and the media replaced.

Jeffrey Manchester added a common practice is to transfer the media to the landfill. None of it is hazardous materials. The effectiveness of bioretention basin is the roots and vegetation which take care of most of the pollutants.

Elsa Saxod asked if these pollutants are unique or pervasive around the County.

Ross Duenas mentioned these are commonly found throughout the watershed especially near roads where cars travel. These are water quality pollutants throughout the state in fact.

Gary Strawn the biggest example is copper and its source from brake shoes. Before copper on brake shoes it was asbestos. There was a bill to get those brake shoes into something less toxic. It has been a ten-year process to get those brake shoes moving in the right direction.

Stephen Houlahan moved to approve Resolution 19-09.

Stephen Houlahan moved for approval of Resolution 19-09 and **Cody Petterson** seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Josh Nelson, Chris Lief, Gina Moran, Kimberly Weinstein, Gail Sevrens, Cody Petterson, Conrad Wear, John Elliott, Stephen Houlahan, Clarissa Falcon, Elsa Saxod (13-0-0)

Item 11. San Diego County Water Authority (INFORMATIONAL)

Elsa Saxod thanked the San Diego County Water Authority for the opportunity to host the San Diego River Conservancy Board meeting. This is an interesting project because it is both the City and County of San Diego and Water Authority collaboration. It is futuristic because of energy storage. Gary will give an explanation to better understand the project.

Gary Bosquet introduced himself as Deputy Director of Engineering with the San Diego County Water Authority. This San Vicente Energy Storage Facility (Project) is a big partnership with the City of San Diego. He acknowledged Nicole McGinnis Principal Water Resource Specialist from City of San Diego, Public Utilities.

The Water Authority is a wholesale water agency created by State Legislature in 1944. They serve 3.3 million people around the region and support the \$231 billion economy of San Diego County. They have 24 member agencies which are the retailers who serve the end customers and they supply 89% of the water used in the county. Over the last year they have invested \$2.5 billion in facilities to set up for storage and drought proof during drought periods. That includes Carlsbad desalination plant, pipelines, treatment plants and reservoirs. One reason that prompted this was support of California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. By 2030 the goal is 60% renewables and by 2045 100% clean energy.

In order to meet those goals, solar, wind and non-carbon sources of energy will be used. One problem is at night. Currently a portion of energy comes from natural gas and out-of-state imports. The state cannot rely on other sources which are not clean to meet those goals. While nuclear is another source, it is being phased out. Relying on storage will be a way to serve electric customers at night.

Lower reservoir is filled with water and upper reservoir is used to hold the water that is pumped. Excess solar generation can be used to pump water and store potential energy. As solar gets off the grid and demand increases, this kind of facility turns generators on from water to power the grid when needed. Large scale solar pump is one piece of the solution. Batteries are another option; however, typically 2 hours of storage or less, a larger scale can be up to 8 hours. Moving into the future there will be technologies for different purposes.

Ben Clay commented this is a large hydro project moving water back and forth. Hydro is considered the biggest battery in the system.

Gary Bosquet so this project at 500 megawatts would be about a quarter the size of the San Onofre project. Balancing generation with demand, store during the day and use at night. It can also be used at the beginning of the day. Improving transmission efficiency. Projects like this can help the flow of electricity around the region. They can act in lieu of more transmission lines. Also, electrical grid stability and voltage frequency support. Historically, plants run at constant level. For example, the solar field or wind farm fluctuates depending on climate. A project like this helps grid operators keep the system reliable. Shifting power supply over longer periods of time. A large supply in the winter can be advantageous compared to summer. Moving forward, the lower reservoir is already built. They share the water within the reservoir. A small upper reservoir with pumping facilities underground between the two reservoirs. Integrating new renewable energy to meet 60% and 100% at 2045. This is a critical element to making that reality.

Since this is in early stages, they are trying to identify an off-take agreement. The project would go before the Water Authority Board. After that, then the project would move forward. Once approval is granted, the CEQA process would begin and application for FERC License.

Ben Clay asked if they have a project like this already running. This technology is not new.

Gary Bosquet replied the Water Authority has the Lake Hodges Pump Storage Project which is 40 megawatts - much smaller than the one proposed here. They have a power purchase agreement between San Diego Gas and Electric which they use the facility's pumping during the day and generate at night and sometimes in the mornings.

Ruth Hayward asked if the Water Authority plans to produce the same amount of energy year-round or will it fluctuate between seasons.

Gary Bosquet the facility could produce up to 4,000 megawatt hours per day. It would be a function of how much solar is available, but ideally it would be run to maximum capacity.

Robin Rierdan introduced herself as Executive Director of Lakeside's River Park Conservancy. She is concerned about the development of another reservoir in critical habitat areas. There is a big elevation drop why not use the facility in place rather than impact habitat.

Gary Bosquet responded the CEQA process allows others to respond about their concerns.

John Donnelly asked how the project mitigates during times of drought? Water can be used multiple times.

Gary Bosquet responded the use of the reservoirs is for water primarily. If water was ever needed for supply purposes pump storage would be a secondary function. Another aspect which address this to locating the facility so that water is accessed at a lower level.

Item 12. California Department of Parks and Recreation (INFORMATIONAL)

Julia Richards introduced Jim Engelke Project Manager and Nancy Mendes Regional Interpretive Specialist from the Southern Service Center of California Department of Parks and Recreation who will give an update of planned exhibits at the site of the former Caltrans building located in Old Town State Historic Park in San Diego.

Jim Engelke introduced himself as Project Manager for the San Diego Old Town State Historic Park Building Demolition and Immediate Public Use Project. The project is moving along and he discussed the project, specifically the Native American elements. Contractor recently completed the demolition, backfill and underground improvement which is the first phase. They are about 3 months behind schedule mostly due to unforeseen conditions. For example, rebar is usually a quarter or half inch, but the rebar in this building was two and three inches. Completion estimated for Spring 2020.

The San Diego River historically ran along present-day Taylor Street. In the Project area a large retention basin with native plantings features a sunken amphitheater which can hold public gatherings and performances on the stage. The project provides enhanced pedestrian circulation throughout the park with accessible pathways, seating, fencing, signage and shade ramadas to support large or small gatherings and interpretive studies including basic landscape using native trees, shrubs and ground cover. Parking with permeable surface accompanying up to 28 accessible parking spaces. He turned it over to Nancy for discussion of the proposed Native American elements.

Nancy Mendes added the exhibit concepts include a variety of interpretive elements throughout the site with Spring 2020 to coincide with the park's opening. Representatives of the Kumeyaay Nation have been meeting with California State Parks through a working group which has been instrumental in including Kumeyaay stories and resources related to interpreting Kumeyaay culture and their connection to the San Diego River and Old Town San Diego.

Key features the working group has been developing include 20-foot diameter mosaic of Kumeyaay constellations and grinding stones for demonstrations, located in the center of the site. Two curved walls will have river elements and mixed media. Images of plants and animals of the San Diego River significant to the Kumeyaay will be sand-blasted on walls running diagonally through the site. Tactile exhibit panels and digital tour will interpret key messages related to the San Diego River, the Kumeyaay people and Old Town.

Michael Connelly Miskwish designed and incorporated Kumeyaay constellation as an exhibit. This sand painting represents the constellation when Spanish colonizers arrived in Kumeyaay territory. Other exhibits will include concrete walls that will include birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects with names etched in Kumeyaay, Spanish and English languages. They are aiming to incorporate Kumeyaay heritage. Plant walls will depict plants significant to Kumeyaay heritage and will be interspersed along the animal mow strip and etched in a similar manner. Native plants will be planted in the area and plant walls will serve as gathering areas. The large stone boulders will be near interpretive grinding stone features and acorn processing. Several key messages will be placed throughout the park.

Kimberly Weinstein thanked the Conservancy Board for supporting this project. They are excited to incorporate Kumeyaay culture and she recognized John Elliott for being involved.

Clarissa Falcon commented constituents have been curious about this site. She asked if there would be an opening celebration.

Kimberly Weinstein responded there will be a celebration but the details are pending.

John Elliott thanked staff for dedicating time for this project. He thanked Kim for their partnership. Throughout time the river has been important for plants, animals and people.

Item 13. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Julia Richards announced the Board materials contain two spreadsheets: Proposition 1 and 68 spreadsheets. Proposition 68 received full applications. A total of 12 submittals requested \$9.15 million; however, there is only \$2 million available this year. The Conservancy is seeking review from San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Evaluations will be ready in November. Proposition 1 total funds with

approvals today amount to \$9.5 million. Round 5 will take place in the next year or two. Fiscal year budget for 19-20 support and operations of \$336,000 and Park Bond (Prop 68) allocation \$2.1 million including program delivery and project costs.

Item 14. Next Meeting

November 14, 2019.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 pm

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

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

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBERS' REPORTS (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

PURPOSE: These items are for Board discussion only and the Board
will take no formal action.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT
(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY (*INFORMATIONAL*)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **MISSION VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE FROM
THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO (*INFORMATIONAL*)**

The City of San Diego adopted an update to the Mission Valley Community Plan, in September 2019. The plan allows for a significant increase in housing by designating many existing commercial areas for mixed use development, while maintaining specialized protections for the area adjacent to the San Diego River and steep hillsides.

Presentation:

**Nancy Graham, Development Project Manager
City of San Diego, Planning Department**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **FERAL PIGS IN THE SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED
(INFORMATIONAL)**

Currently it is estimated that there are fewer than a dozen feral pigs in the backcountry, mostly along the San Diego River and on lands owned and managed by the Cleveland National Forest, California State Parks, City of San Diego Public Utilities District and the Barona and Viejas tribal reservations.

Presentation:

**Megan Jennings, Ph.D., Research Ecologist
Co-Director, Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management
San Diego State University**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: GREENING SAN DIEGO PROGRAM
(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Presentation:

Julia Richards, Executive Officer
San Diego River Conservancy

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: EXECUTVE 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:

- Proposition 68 Update
- USFS work program to include the San Diego River Trail
- Helix Water District surplus property in El Monte Valley

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING

**The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held
Thursday, January 9, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 14, 2019

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT

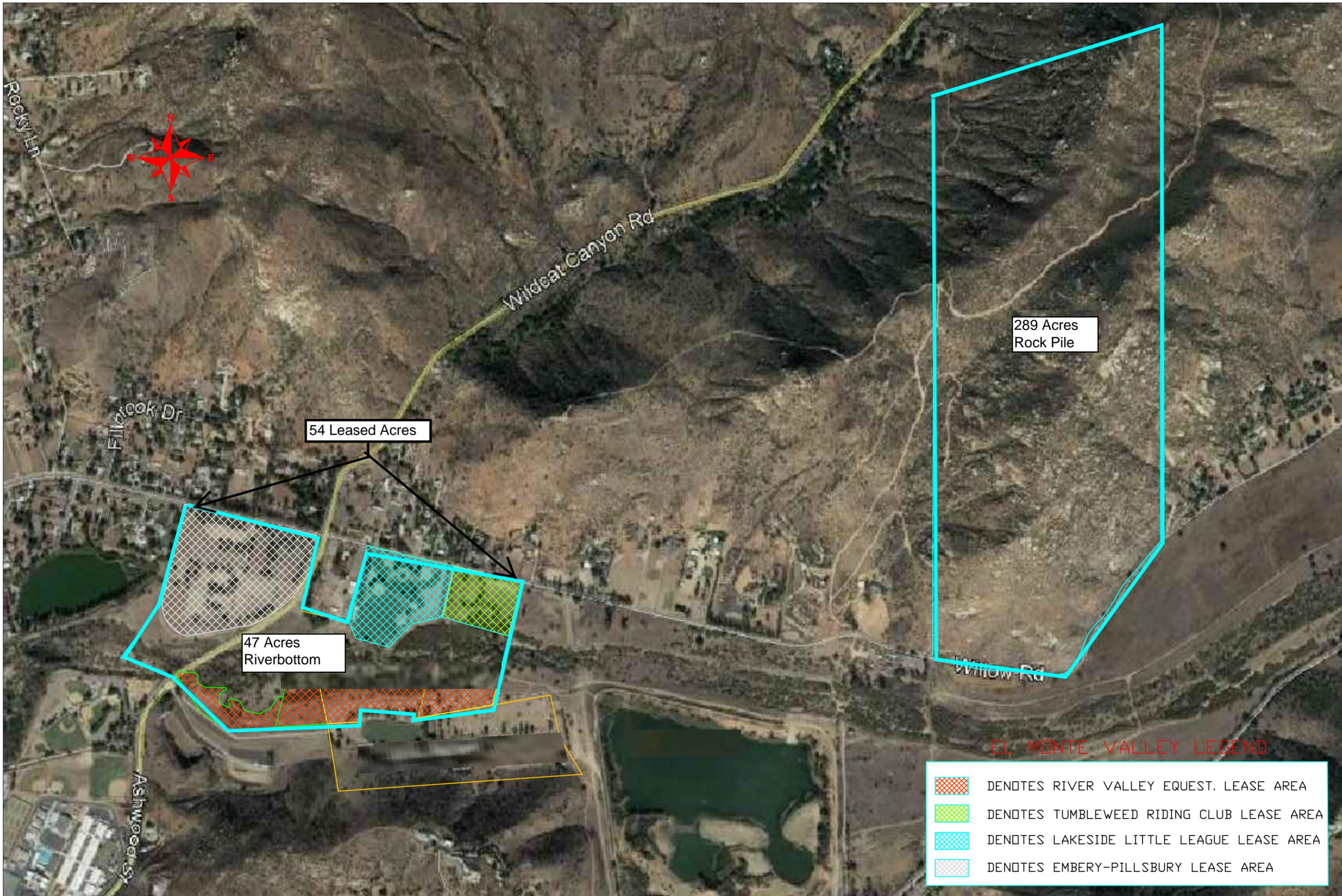
San Diego River Conservancy

Proposition 68, Round 1

Rankings

November 14, 2019

Organization Name	Project	Raw score	RANK
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	San Diego River Science Field Station Furniture and Fixtures	132.00	3
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	Trail Landscape and Shade Vegetation Project	113.67	5
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	Project Planning and Design: Shovel Ready Pocket Park San Diego River Trail	95.67	8
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	Project Planning and Design: Trail Between Mapleview and Cactus County Park	80.67	9
City of El Cajon	El Cajon Transit Center Community Connection Improvements	157.00	1
City of El Cajon	Main Street - Creen Street Gateway	151.00	2
County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation	Flume Trail Extension Enhancements	110.67	6
County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation	Lindo Lake Improvements (Phase 1 - East Basin)	118.67	4
County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department	Boulder Oaks Preserve Public Access Improvement Project	109.33	7
Steve Chapple	San Diego Unified STEAM Leadership Bridge to Outdoor Education, Water and River Quality, and Environmental Careers	120.00	* ineligible for bond funding
San Diego Canyonlands	Plan and Plant 500 Trees in the San Diego River Watershed		Disqualified
San Diego Canyonlands	Navajo Canyon Restoration and Trails Improvement Project		Disqualified
City of Santee	Hanlon Hill Overlook Trail		Disqualified



289 Acres
Rock Pile

54 Leased Acres

47 Acres
Riverbottom

EL MONTE VALLEY LEGEND

-  DENOTES RIVER VALLEY EQUEST. LEASE AREA
-  DENOTES TUMBLEWEED RIDING CLUB LEASE AREA
-  DENOTES LAKESIDE LITTLE LEAGUE LEASE AREA
-  DENOTES EMBERY-PILLSBURY LEASE AREA