

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 (Via Phone)
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 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 that 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 fridge 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 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 ground water 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. 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.

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. They directed Kinder Morgan to destroy the wells 3 years ago. No one is maintaining the wells and therefore is a potential threat.

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.

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 Yugade is with Harris and Associates to go over technical details.

Gary Yugade 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 is eroded side slopes, which the Regional Water Quality Control Board suggests to install rip-rap along the banks. Proposed improvement 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 not 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 KDLC 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 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. 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. 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 varying sizes vegetation. Seed heads will be bagged and disposed of every 30 days after initial treatment. The CRAM or other suitable monitoring methodology 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 ranger and the Friends of Goodan Ranch. There are rare plants. She acts 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 the 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 Passive revegetation is allowing 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 mentioned he would like to take a tour.

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 discussed the Wells Park Improvement 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 this project provides valuable benefits to disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged

communities the park resides in. It aligns with the masterplan for the park itself. Ross is with Chen Ryan and Associates and will 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 splash pad, future and storm water harvesting system deep well ground water 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 TSS. the project promotes the water action plan. Specific water quality and flood conveyance from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. An aerial of the park shows the cross streets. Two proposed bioretention will operate as one basin. Three proposed location for offsite treatment 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 rough 16,000 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. A diagram showed an example of what the chambers look like. Located upstream of the curb inlet is a suggest location of installation.

Preliminary engineering and environmental will commence once 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. Construction then project closeout. There is 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 that 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. The soil does have a life every 4-5 years so we have considered these costs.

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 Jeffrey mentioned they deposit themselves in the media. Over time they are cleaned out and the media replaced.

Jeffrey Manchester A common practice is to transfer 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 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 interested 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 project is a big partnership with the City of San Diego. He acknowledged Nicole McGinnis Principal Water Resource Specialist.

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 include 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 electric around the region. They can act in lieu of more transmission lines. Also, electrical grid stability 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 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 which is 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 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 Directors of Lakesides Riverpark 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 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. Just have to replace evaporation.

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 San Diego.

Jim Engelke introduced himself as Project Manager for the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Building Demolition and Immediate Public Use Project. They are happy to see the project moving along. He is here to discuss the project specifically the Native American elements. Contractor currently completed the demolition, backfill and underground improvement phase 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. The rebar in this building was two and three inches. Some issues of unknown transformer that needed to be coordinated with San Diego Gas and Electric. Project schedule is estimated completion and underground improvements late November early December. Completion estimated for Spring 2020.

The interpretation of the San Diego River historically ran along present-day Tamer Street. In that area a large retention basin with native plantings features a sunken amphitheater which can hold public gatherings and performances. The stage can be used for small events and programs. There is an overlook deck on one end. Enhanced pedestrian circulation throughout the park with accessible pathways, seating, fencing, signage and shade ramadas to support large or small gatherings and interpretive studies. Lighting, power and benches are also included. 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 the proposed Native American elements.

Nancy Mendes the exhibit concepts include a variety of interpretive elements throughout the site with anticipated completion by Spring 2020 to coincide with the park's opening. Representatives of the Kumeyaay Nation have been meeting with California State Parks throughout development and this working group has been instrumental allowing the Kumeyaay to include 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. Both are 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 from Taylor and Juan Streets to Wallace and Calhoun Streets. Tactile exhibit panels and digital tour will interpret key messages related to the San Diego River, the Kumeyaay and Old Town.

The exhibit concepts were designed by Michael Connelly Miskwish and incorporate Kumeyaay constellation. The sand painting represents the constellation in July when Spanish colonizers arrived in Kumeyaay territory. Stones plants and animals will be on concrete walls. Kumeyaay heritage will be incorporated. The large stone boulders will be near bolder to interpret grinding stone features and acorn processing. Several key messages will be placed throughout the park. One concept will be dedicated to Kumeyaay ancestors.

The river element is two concert curved walls and is evolving to incorporate additional ideas to depict plants and animals of the river, tule boat construction, underwater plants and images conveyed. The types of materials include sculptural ceramic art work with dimensional and tactile surface. At 15 inches wide and 375 feet long, animal images and names will be etched in Kumeyaay, Spanish and English languages. They are aiming to include birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

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.

Kimberly Weinstein thanked the 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.

Ruth Hayward most slides have concepts, but if this is reproduced it will be a great project.

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

Julia Richards in the Board materials there are two 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