

# 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 13, 2021  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

## IN PERSON MEETING PARTICIPATION PROHIBITED

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued December 14, 2020, and to maximize social distancing and public safety, the San Diego River Conservancy will conduct this meeting by video and audio only. Board members, staff, and the public may participate remotely.

Zoom Meeting ID: 933 6769 0240

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/93367690240>

Audio only  
(669) 900-6833, passcode 93367690240#

For Questions Contact:  
Wendell Taper at [wendell.taper@sdrca.gov](mailto:wendell.taper@sdrca.gov) or (619) 390-0568

## 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 January 14, 2021 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/ ACTION**)

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

6. Health and Safety Report (**INFORMATIONAL**)

7. Senate Bill 85 – Wildfire Early Action Plan (**INFORMATIONAL**)

In April 2021, Governor Newsom and the State Legislature approved \$536 million for wildfire protection projects throughout state including \$12 million in the 2021-2022 state budget for the San Diego River Conservancy to enact early action projects to reduce the risk of wildfires. The intent of the allocation is to take action to restore the ecological health of forests and watersheds, establish fuel breaks and reduce the chance of wildfires prior to the start of the wildfire season.

Presentation:

Deanna Spehn, Policy Director of Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins

8. Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan (**INFORMATIONAL/ ACTION**)

The San Diego River Conservancy through its partners will implement projects including fuel reduction and healthy forest activities that advance wildfire preparedness and improve defensible space to mitigate the risk of wildfires. Project funding provided by Wildfire Early Action Plan through Senate Bill 85 in support of [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Presentation:

Julia Richards, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy

9. Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (**ACTION**)

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (Resource Conservation District) has existing programs for defensible space, chipping and educational outreach to mitigate risk of wildfire. These programs and services foster fire prevention and safety throughout the County and encourage community involvement. Conservancy staff recommends funding \$3,500,000 to expand program capacity and assist private landowners through fuel reduction activities in the County of San Diego. Project funding provided by Wildfire Early Action Plan through Senate Bill 85 in support of [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Presentation:

Ann Baldrige, Community Programs Director, Resource Conservation District

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 21-04

10. San Diego Canyonlands - San Diego River Watershed Canyons Fire Resiliency Program **(ACTION)**

San Diego Canyonlands proposes to reduce fuel loads in the following canyons: Ruffin/Sandrock, Rueda, Shepard, and Navajo, which are tributaries to the San Diego River. All potential project areas are owned by the City of San Diego and are within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division. Conservancy staff recommends funding \$1,000,000 for fuel reduction activities to mitigate fire risk in the City of San Diego. Project funding provided by Wildfire Early Action Plan through Senate Bill 85 in support of [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Presentation:

Miranda Hyldahl, Associate Director, San Diego Canyonlands

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 21-05

11. San Diego County – Department of Parks and Recreation **(INFORMATIONAL)**

San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved \$3,300,000 to acquire 98 acres in El Monte Valley adjacent to the San Diego River. San Diego County Board of Supervisors also approved additional investments, which include updating baseball little league facility, trail construction, and native habitat restoration. County Parks staff will provide an overview.

Presentation:

Ieszic Formeller, Park Project Manager, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

12. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park **(INFORMATIONAL)**

After over 23 years of visioning and planning, California State Parks transformed the old Caltrans District 11 Office into a new public open space located in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park on Taylor Street in the City of San Diego. California State Parks has been meeting with the Old Town Working Group since 2013 to discuss interpretation and education for the Land of the First People Exhibit Area at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. This Working Group has been instrumental in providing an opportunity for the Kumeyaay Nation to shape the interpretation of Kumeyaay culture and their connections to the San Diego River and to Old Town San Diego.

Presentation:

Nancy Mendez, Interpretive Development, California State Parks

Marla Mealey, Archaeologist, California State Parks

Megan Suster, Interpretive Implementation and Operation, California State Parks

13. 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:

- US Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest Agreement
- Proposition 68 Update

14. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held July 8, 2021, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Accessibility

If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Wendell Taper at 619-390-0568 or Julia Richards at 619-507-5085

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*ACTION*)  
The Board will consider adoption of the **January 12, 2021** Board Meeting.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of January 14, 2021 Public Meeting  
(Draft Minutes for Approval on May 13, 2021)

CONSERVANCY Board Chair, Ben Clay called the January 14, 2021 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

## Item 1. Roll Call

### Members Present

Joel Anderson	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Richard Burg	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Raul Campillo	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Clarissa Falcon	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ray Lennox	Department of Parks and Recreation
Gayle Miller	Department of Finance
Amanda Martin	Natural Resources Agency
Gina Moran	Department of Parks and Recreation
Cody Petterson	Speaker of the Assembly
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Dave Toler	Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
Randy Wilde	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee

### Absent

Elsa Saxod	Public at Large
Vacant	City of Santee

### 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

Gayle Miller moved for approval of the minutes for the November 12, 2020 meeting and Clarissa Falcon seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Amanda Martin, Gayle Miller, Gina Moran, Ray Lennox, Richard Burg, Joel Anderson, Clarissa Falcon, Elsa Saxod (9-0-3)

## Item 3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

No public comment.

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

Ben Clay welcomed the new Board Members and thanked the outgoing Board Members that served for the last few years. Ben took this opportunity to explain the legislative report, which is written by the Executive Officer every two years and submitted to the legislature and the Governor. He thanked the City of San Diego and Lifeguards who have provided immense support during rain events, not only on the San Diego River, but all the way south to the Tijuana River. The Conservancy helped supply dry suites for protection for those who enter dangerous conditions. The Water Utilities Department has land ownership outside the City jurisdictions. The Pueblo Water Rights go out to El Monte Valley. The Conservancy works with Utilities Department regarding trails and clearing invasive vegetation. The City's political leadership also has a big hand in leveraging the Conservancy's capabilities.

Moving east, Admiral Baker Golf Course is Navy Property where the San Diego River Trail needs to run through. Discussions have begun and the United States has been cooperative. Further east is the City of Santee. Mast Park in partnership with the Conservancy has developed an exquisite park. Also working with the County, their parks are much improved. Acquiring land and preserving trails, working with Native Americans, and clearing out invasive because it is a fire hazard. The State Parks at Cuyamaca Rancho and their reforestation project. Working with them and helping them is important for biking, hiking and horseback trails.

Working with the Forest Service, planting oak trees and pine trees is crucial because there are very few places where these trees still existing in San Diego County. Partners are collecting seeds and planting in the Laguna Mountains. The Three additional river Watersheds start in Supervisor Anderson's District 2. Tijuana River flows south into Mexico, then flows north back into Imperial Beach. The Federal Government, Environmental Protection Agency, Boundary and Water Commission and the Country of Mexico are all involved. Because of this Ben would like to focus more on Otay and Sweetwater River Watersheds. There is much activity the Conservancy can in the short term have a bigger impact. New partners include City of Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, Port of San Diego and San Diego Bay, who are managers of the tide lands where the Tijuana River empties.

Ben reiterated; the Conservancy cannot tax nor condemn land. Partnerships are the Conservancy's mechanism to coordinate money flow into projects. With Prop 1 and Prop 68, partner agencies can implement projects. State agencies include San Diego State University, the new campus at the stadium site. Alvarado Creek and flooding councilmember Campillo is familiar with those problems. Ben mentioned this because of Senate Bill 45 which is proposed by Allen, Portantino and Stern. Wildfire, drought and flood protection - the Conservancy is allocated 85 million. There may be money available. Ben asked if there are any questions or comments.

Joel Anderson mentioned he has big shoes to fill after Dianne Jacob and is excited to work with the Conservancy.

Raul Campillo claimed he is thrilled to be involved with the Conservancy. The District 7 constituents had good things to say about the Conservancy. He wants to make sure experts are taking care of the River and other resources and wants to make good relationships. He looks forward to spending this money to help neighborhoods. He thanked everyone.

Ben Clay explained invasive work is important in Councilmember Campillo's district.

Randy Wilde thanked Chair Clay and also thanked Julia and Hayley for getting him onboard. Randy is the Policy Advisor for Mayor Gloria's office for land use and housing as well as environmental issues. He is excited to work with everyone on the board and the opportunities to enhance the health and accessibility to the river. As a City they are updated the climate action plan and resilience plan and want to make sure all efforts are aligned with the Conservancy.

Ben Clay mentioned the clean water program is a key component as well as the sewage system. Ben wanted to

make sure that all Board Members submit their Form700 on time as well as complete the ethics training.

Gina Moran updated the Board on the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park on the new outdoor exhibit area. The Old Caltrans building was demolished and construction is underway. They are approximately 2 months away from opening the exhibit. She wanted to share how they will be connecting Kumeyaay people to the San Diego River. The finishing touches and translation is being done through the work group. She is excited and will let everyone know when it is open.

Ben Clay discussed how the original San Diego River used to run where Taylor Street currently is.

Gary Strawn introduced himself to the new Board Members as a non-voting advisory member from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. They are involved with many items which Ben had mentioned. He offered to be the link and is more than willing to help with all he can. They tested the water today and the quality is doing well.

Amanda Martin mentioned this is her last day as the primary delegate for the Natural Resources Agency. Taking her place is Andrea Sharffer who transferred from Department of Finance. She has the Conservancy budget and is well aware of your efforts.

John Donnelly thanked the Board and mentioned he also is a non-voting member. Any of the new or current Board Members have questions about Wildlife Conservation Board can reach out to him. The Conservancy Board is invested in restoration, acquisition and public access projects. They continue to invest in San Diego through NCCP program and outside of those areas. Feel free to reach out to him directly.

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

Hayley Peterson no report.

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

Ben Clay no report.

#### Item 7. Alvarado Creek Invasive Plant Removal, Phase V – Proposition 1 (*ACTION*)

Julia Richards San Diego State University Research Foundation seeks \$1,839,423.98 in Proposition 1 grant funds to remove invasive non-native plants along Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. Conservancy staff recommends \$600,0000 in grant funding. The proposed project will remove approximately 3 acres of non-native vegetation and treat and maintain additional acres along the lower section of Alvarado Creek. The project contains multiple benefits and will increase flood capacity, reduce the risk of fire and promote native recruitment for the riparian habitat. The proposed project is within a tributary to the San Diego River and is located within a half mile of a disadvantaged community. It is consistent with two state plans and promotes the California Water Action Plan. It is consistent with the San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation and supports the strategic plan program areas Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, Program 5 Enhance water quality and natural flood conveyance, and Program 6 Outreach.

The project promotes the recovery of native riparian vegetation and helps support sensitive and endangered species of flora and fauna. The project will also reestablish the natural ecosystem and provide enhanced benefits to the wildlife corridor. It is consistent with the funding source of Proposition 1. More details are in the staff report.

Conservancy staff recommend approval of Resolution 21-01 to San Diego State University Research Foundation for removal of invasive plants in Alvarado Creek. Julia introduced Julie Lambert, Senior Project Manager for the Soil Ecology Restoration Group at San Diego State University and Tom Zink Principal Investigator, Biology Department at San Diego State University.

Julie Lambert thanked the Board for allowing her to present the project. The Restoration of Alvarado Creek section SDSU West – Phase 5 is located on SDSU land. It is part of a drainage from Interstate-8 freeway to Alvarado Creek. It is full of palm trees. This is the area of wildlife near the Smoke Tree HOA two years ago. SDSU did a restoration project in that area and removed eucalyptus trees near the houses.

Ben Clay mentioned the flooding in that area have been alleviated by working with SDSU and removing invasives. They needed right of entry to conduct work. The Conservancy's investments are to make sure future issues do not recur. It has saved SDSU and the community money by preventative measures.

Julia Lambert mentioned this will be the third area that will be restored under the Conservancy Prop 1 grant program. It is approximately 3 acres. Maintenance in the previously restored areas will also occur. Phase 1-3 is near the Alvarado Medical Center. The map showed future potential projects SDSU would like to conduct.

So far, just under 600 tons of biomass have been removed. Phases 1-3 equaled 180 tones. 413 tones in the Smoke Tree HOA which is on the north side of the freeway. Task 1 is management and administration and task 2 is implementation. Task 2 is subdivided into 4 subtasks: non-native tree removal, maintenance work, vegetation monitoring and trash removal. Task 2 they estimated there are about 100 palm trees and 10 pepper trees in Phase 5. The tree removal will be conducted by ACS habitat management under SERG supervision. It is estimated to take 2-3 weeks to complete.

An example of restoration was showed before tree removal and immediately after tree removal. Two years post restoration the native trees and shrubs have recovered. This is under parking lot B at SDSU. The flooding example shows parking lot at the end of Alvarado Court, SERG greenhouse. Several SDSU research Foundation buildings used to get flooded. The red polygon shows what was inundated and infiltrate buildings costing the university a lot of money in repairs. A relatively small rain event 5–10-year event received 3.6 inches in 3 days, January 2016. Then 1 year post restoration, a bigger 10–25-year rain event gave 3.8 inches in 1.5 days which should have flooded everything, it only flooded the end of the street and boat ramp and parking lot. Maintenance in the restored phases will occur by applying water-safe herbicide to annual and perennial weeds.

Even though the perennial nonnative cover decreased, the open canopy allows annual nonnatives to flourish. Most of the cover was perennial non-natives. Two years post restoration, the non-native cover total has decreased but annual nonnative has increased therefore it is important to apply herbicide. To quantify vegetation monitoring along transects will show change over time. Phase 5 baseline monitoring and two annual monitoring's. HOA already has baseline. Phase 1-3 has baseline, so 3 annual monitoring's are needed.

The line intercept method for vegetation monitoring, so that is basic. A transect tape across the tape observer records portion of tape covered by vegetation to give percent cover. An example from phase 1-3 native cover doubled post restoration. The pie chart shows most cover was palm, two years post restoration, most cover is native annuals and perennials (willows). They will conduct trash removal in phase 5 which is clean. Phases 1-3 needs encampment cleanup. They work with SDSU police and outreach for homeless. Three events per year and phase 5 1

event per year. Reporting will be provided quarterly summarizing work done in last quarter. The final project report will present everything done over the term of the project.

The administration task is anticipated to be completed April 2023, implementation done by October 2021, with work starting September 15<sup>th</sup> right after bird breeding season. The herbicide application will end January 2023 and vegetation monitoring will end March 2023. Lastly trash removal is to be completed by January 2023.

The budget – management task is \$150,000, implementation \$450,000 for a total of \$600,000. She thanked the Board.

Dave Toler thanked the Board and excused himself for another meeting

Clarissa Falcon thanked the Board and asked what kind of permits are required for this work. The City of San Diego is looking for city wide permit for removal as well. The staff recommendation is for \$600,000. What will that pay for and are there other sources of funding to be pursued?

Julie Lambert responded they are working under the Conservancy's environmental permits.

Julia Richards replied the Conservancy has a suite of permits from state and federal regulatory agencies to remove invasive plants on land within the San Diego River Watershed which were original obtained in 2009 and just renewed last year for 5 additional years.

Julie Lambert commented the most expensive portion is invasive nonnative removal. The vegetation monitoring and trash removal with San Diego Urban Corp will also be done. They have not identified other sources of funding yet, but may consider Prop 68 for other portions of the project since the original proposal is larger than what is presented today.

Raul Campillo thanked the Chair Clay and wanted to thank SDSU Research Foundation. District 7 is important to remove invasive, especially closer to Grantville. Moving into Phase 5 he looks forward to hearing updates about this project. He would like to assist with trash cleanups. They have been in Navajo Canyon before and want to help in other places with trash cleanups.

John Donnelly asked what is done with the biomass. This proposal for initial work and monitoring, will future phases include revegetation with native plants? He asked SDSU reach out to Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) staff and their riparian program.

Julie Lambert responded biomass is chipped on site and hauled off to the Green Portion of the San Diego Landfill. Depending on the phase it looks like native vegetation is rebounding. Small areas could use willows. The Smoke Tree HOA there is barely any vegetation so they would love to revegetate there. They will pursue other funding to do that.

Richard Burg asked three questions: is there a supplemental planting plan for any plantings? What type of nonnative control will be conducted? His concern is nonnative will re-establish. Lastly the natural plant establishment, is there methods to control vegetation?

Julie Lambert responded regular herbicide visit and manual removal but mostly spot spraying of herbicide. Because the creek is behind SERG, she is able to visit the site once every two weeks – when its needed.

Raul Campillo moved for approval of Resolution 21-01 and Gina Moran seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Amanda Martin, Gina Moran, Ray Lennox, Joel Anderson, Cody Petterson, Randy Wilde, Raul Campillo, Clarissa Falcon. (10-0-1)

## Item 8. Ruffin Canyon Invasive Plant Removal, Phase 2 – Proposition 1 (*ACTION*)

Julia Richards San Diego Canyonlands seeks \$624,916.85 in Proposition 1 grant funds. Conservancy staff recommends \$600,000 for Ruffin Canyon Habitat Restoration Project phase 2. The proposed project covers 7 acres and targets removal of invasive nonnative vegetation to restore native habitat. The proposed project provided multi-benefits, is located in the San Diego River Watershed. It is consistent with 6 state and local plans including the California Water Action Plan. The proposed project is consistent with the San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation, it is supported by the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update Preserve and Restore Natural Resources and Program 5 Enhance water quality and natural flood conveyance.

The proposed project will remove approximately 275 mature palm trees to reduce the risk of fire in this urban canyon. The removal of invasive nonnative vegetation will promote native recruitment to improve the health of this canyon ecosystem. Native plants better filter urban runoff reduces pollution and sediment transportation thus reducing erosion in this tributary. The project benefits plants and wildlife by restoring wetlands and native habitat which serve as wildlife migration corridors. The project is consistent with the purposes of Proposition 1. More details are located in the staff report and Conservancy staff recommend approval of Resolution 21-02 to San Diego Canyonlands for \$600,000 for Ruffin Canyon Invasive Removal and Restoration Project Phase 2.

Julia introduced Clayton Tschudy, Executive Director of San Diego Canyonlands to provide a presentation on this matter and answer any questions you may have.

Clayton Tschudy thanked the Board for the opportunity to present. He recently took over position of Executive Director from Eric Bowlby one year ago. Canyonlands would like to continue restoration of Ruffin Canyon and Sandrock Canyon nearby the new development around the former Qualcomm stadium. This project is focused on removal of Mexican fan palm trees. other invasive species removal results in fire protection, habitat enhancement, ecosystem resiliency and community activation.

Ruffin Canyon is a mix of native and non-native invasives. They plan to remove 275 fan palms in addition of the 300 in phase 1. They will replant were removal occurred. This will reduce flooding and streambed degradation. Improve water quality by holding upstream support endanger California gnatcatcher and contribute to city action goal around riparian forest canopy. They are a community-based habitat restoration organization. They build expertise of habitat restoration and activate local communities with many partners including San Diego ranger program.

A local Ruffin canyon friends group started 18 years ago. The San Diego center for children will be part of a social workforce. They find social service organization job training offering on the job training for environmental restoration and ornamental horticulture. Another partner is past San Diego who serves homeless populations. The lucky duck foundation provides money for services to homeless population.

This project is located above the Escala HOA and adjacent to Friars Road. Taft middle school is at the top of the canyon which will serve as the palm tree staging area. They will be lifted by helicopter and dropped there. Truck will remove them to green waste. The logistics of using helicopter is complicated and the school district makes it possible. the permission has been worked out.

Palm trees are high fire risk. Documentation supports this and recent fires in the watershed. Fan palm removal assists with preventing streambed degradation. Storm intensity impacts increase over time one result is potential for erosion. Palm trees do not have bank stabilization as native willows for example.

San Diego Canyonlands has experience. In 2019 they removed 400 palms from Rueda and in December 2019 300 palms from Ruffin Canyon phase 1. Additional 275 palms will take care of all tall palm trees. the rest can be treated and removed by hand. Helicopter is the best practice because narrow and deep canyons make it difficult to remove. They log a flight plan with FAA staying a certain distance from private property. It is a safe and effective best practice.

The timeline shows nesting season which prevents them from using power tools. They anticipate starting April 2021 and finishing April 2023. The first step is invasive species control with herbicide and hand removal. Helicopter lift planning involves finding an arborist and helicopter company. They have the permitting and CEQA analyses approved by the City of San Diego and San Diego River Conservancy permits along with a Right of Entry that covers this project. Everything is in place and ready to go.

Starting September 16<sup>th</sup>, they will finalize the helicopter planning so that on December 1 they will fell the trees and then December 20 through January 1 the school playground is available for a staging area because of winter break. The timing of this is important. Following helicopter removal, more traditional restoration techniques outside of nesting season, other invasive trees will be removed. Small trees will be treated by drill and kill. Early in the year is a good time for planting willow and mule fat cuttings. March 2 through September 16 non-power tools and one-gallon plants will be installed, irrigated and maintained with herbicide control. Afterwards, in 2022 trees that die from previous treatment will then be removed. More plants established as needed, then finally, native seed dispersed.

Once grant is concluded, the community will help support this project over time with volunteer work. The canyonlands ground can also help. It is important to stay on top of removal because palm tree establish very quickly. Once they are 6ft, it becomes hard to remove by hand.

Budget total is \$670,000. Canyonlands requested \$624,916 and SDRC match is at \$600,000. With the new partnership with Price Philanthropies, they helped fill the funding gap. Ruffin Canyon is an ephemeral creek. Restoring this will stabilize bank improve downstream flooding and cleans the water. Also, biodiversity increases, such as beneficial bugs. Finally, it reduced fire risk.

The Field Team is already working in Ruffin, funded by Price Philanthropies. He thanks the Conservancy and appreciates the opportunity to continue this partnership.

Richard Burg asked about the methodologies. Will there only be 36 container plants? Where would the collection take place? Any supplemental planting? Coast prickly pear the department has a garden you can have spare pads.

Clayton Tschudy responded in the hundreds or thousands. They plan to use Recon Environmental or Native West Nurseries. Some of the seed collection by themselves so they will also use Native West to help with seeds. The seed collection will be in the Canyon itself. They usually cannot get the amount needed so working with Native West collecting to the site as close as possible. Canyonlands will remain involved to maintain the quality of work over time. Supplemental planting over several years. For example, a 20-year license agreement is already in place for City Height Canyon Project. They are committed.

Cody Petterson the first year there was a similar project. His question was moving forward does the city or other jurisdiction have policies about incentive programs to discourage fan palm and other land scaping escaping residential use. He wants to prevent the source.

Clayton Tschudy believes there are no restrictions on any problem species. In fact, some plants are actively used as landscape plants. Other jurisdictions in other places have had success banning the selling from nurseries. Community involvement over time and staying on top of it is critical for the success of these efforts.

Raul Campillo thanked Clayton for his presentation. He asked Canyonlands to reach out to his office and touched on Cody's comment.

Raul Campillo moved for approval of Resolution 21-02 and Cody Petterson seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Amanda Martin, Gina Moran, Ray Lennox, Joel Anderson, Cody Petterson, Randy Wilde, Raul Campillo (9-0-1)

## Item 9. Lindo Lake Restoration and Water Quality Improvements – Proposition 1 (ACTION)

Julia Richards the County of San Diego, Department of Recreation seeks \$2.5 million and Conservancy staff recommends \$600,000 in Proposition 1 grant funds for water quality improvement at Lindo Lake County Park's east basin by installation of best management practices (BMP). The proposed project is located within the San Diego River Watershed. It is located in a disadvantaged community and within a half mile of a severely disadvantaged community. The proposed project is consistent with 3 state plans including the California Water Action Plan. It is consistent with the San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation and also supports the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Program Areas 3 preserve and restore natural resources and Program Area 5 enhance water quality and natural flood conveyance. The proposed project includes several benefits to water quality by installation of the BMPs.

These improvements include storm drain inlets and outlets, trash collecting weirs, spillway and concrete culverts to capture and filter sediment debris and contaminants from the stormwater and urban runoff before it reaches the lake. The project also includes installation of 267 native trees supporting climate resiliency and carbon sequestration. The trees will surround Lindo Lake and improve native habitat for local and migratory wildlife. The proposed project is consistent with the purpose of the funding source, Proposition 1. More details are located in the staff report. Conservancy staff recommends approval of Resolution 20-03 to the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation for Lindo Lake Water Quality Improvements to the East Basin in the amount of \$600,000. Julia Introduced Ilesic Formeller, Park Project Manager with the County of San Diego. He will provide us with a presentation on the proposed project and answer any questions you may have.

Ilesic Formeller the project will restore the east basin of Lindo Lake, improve water quality, restore habitat and provide significant public benefit to the disadvantaged and vulnerable population in the community of Lakeside. On behalf of the County, Department of Parks and Recreation, he thanked the Board for previously recommending and awarding \$250,000 of Proposition 68 grant funding for this project which will be utilized to support the construction of amenities to enhance public access and enjoyment.

This proposal is for habitat restoration and water quality improvement for this important project. This project will be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 will be the east basin. Phase 2 will be the west basin. Restoration will be achieved by deepening the basin to a maximum of 10 feet and constructing multiple improvements to water quality, habitat and recreation opportunities for the public within the surrounding disadvantaged community.

Funds requested today through the Departments Proposition 1 grant application with the Conservancy specifically support construction costs to improve water quality of Lindo Lake and the San Diego River Watershed and to restore essential native habitat. Culverts will improve water circulation, and BMPs including storm drain improvements, new sedimentation basin with weir and spillway to capture stormwater and urban runoff to filter out contaminants. Proposition 1 funding will also support restoring several acres of native habitat specific plant species.

The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in May 2019 and design and engineering to meet the SEIR was completed February 2020. Permitting with agencies including USACE, CDFW, and the Regional Water quality control board was completed in August 2020. Phase 1 began November and anticipated to be completed in June 2022.

Structural Permanent BMP will be installed at existing storm drains located around the perimeter of the east basin. Existing and proposed conditions were shown. Two new 48-inch concrete culverts will be installed in the center of the

causeway for improved water circulation. 12 acres of native habitat plants and 267 trees with a water conserving irrigation system. Existing native trees will be maintained. The park will be beautified for all those who visit Lindo Lake.

Joel Anderson moved for approval of Resolution 21-03 and Gayle Miller seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Amanda Martin, Gayle Miller, Gina Moran, Ray Lennox, Joel Anderson, Cody Petterson, Randy Wilde, Raul Campillo (10-0-1)

## Item 10. City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department, Sale of Assets to East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority (JPA) *(INFORMATIONAL)*

Ben Clay stated this item has been postponed until the next meeting.

## Item 11. Executive Officer's Report *(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)*

Julia Richards the first item is the legislative report. Every two years the Conservancy is required to submit a written report of project status and updates to the California Legislature. This report was included in the Board Materials for today. Today's presentation is an overview Project from 2019 to 2020 the conservancy addresses the state priorities by reducing the impacts of climate change, protecting natural and cultural resources, conserving land and improving the overall health of the river.

To fulfill its mission, the Conservancy works with many partners including state local federal and tribal governments, special districts, nonprofit organizations, private property owners and other stakeholders. The Conservancy actively reaches out to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities within the San Diego River Watershed including the Native American, City of El Cajon, and the Community of Lakeside.

The operating budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 was \$336,00 provided by the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF). For fiscal year 2020-2021 the budget is \$348,000 provided by ELPF. The budget included 10% salary reduction and furloughs for all State employees.

Bond fund update. Proposition 1, the 2014 Water Bond allocated \$17 million for the San Diego River Conservancy. So far 10 projects have been completed totaling \$5.3 million. 10 projects are in progress totaling \$4.3 million. That means the remaining \$6.2 million for projects funds. Under Proposition 68 the parks Bond approved in 2018, the Conservancy's allocation was \$12 million. 6 projects are in progress totaling \$1.75 million. Future funding is available in fiscal year 2021 starting on July 1, 2021 and available every two years until funds are expended. Remaining project funds available are \$9.2 million.

Land Conservation: The Conservancy provided a grant to the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation to help acquire approximately 13 acres in Lakeside. this acquisition included a 2.5-mile segment for the San Diego River Trail linkage. It has been a long time coming. The Conservancy and its partners, especially the County of San Diego, have been working together for the last 15 years to secure this key acquisition.

Recreation: The Conservancy's goals include increasing public access to the San Diego River Trail. Over the past 10 years development of the San Diego River Trail included 10 miles of completed segments. Currently in progress there are another 15 miles in progress. In November 2020, the Governing Board approved Reach 1 of the San Diego River Recreational Trail Plan.

Preserve and restore natural resources: The Conservancy awarded 6 grants to implement the invasive non-native plant removal and restoration program through Proposition 1 to restore 136 acres of native riparian and upland habitat. The Conservancy also provided funding to assist the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP) reforestation program activities across 180 acres in the San Diego River headwaters through a Proposition 68 grant. State parks

has been actively reforesting since 2009 to reduce the severe effects of the 2003 Cedar Fire which burned 75% of the San Diego River watershed.

Protect and preserve cultural resources: The Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy partnered with the Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy and the San Diego History Center to update interpretive exhibits housed at the Junipero Serra Museum in Presidio Park in the City of San Diego. The Project included new digital exhibits centered around the significance of the San Diego River historical use over time. The project also includes digital recordings of 15 oral histories from local Kumeyaay and their Elders.

Enhance water quality and natural flood conveyance: The Conservancy also provided grants under Proposition 1 to improve water quality and flood conveyance. 7 water quality improvement projects have been implemented to treat more than 750 acres of urban runoff including a hydrodynamic separator capturing 476 acres in the City of Santee. Additionally, the Conservancy partners with San Diego State University and the State Water Resources Control Board on a research project entitled increasing preparedness in the San Diego River Watershed for potential contamination events to help determine effective management strategies for outdated infrastructure and homeless encampments.

Julia asked for any other comments or questions. The last matter is about Proposition 68. On January 4 a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released announcing \$2 million in grant funds is available. Concept Proposals will be accepted through February 26, 2021. The Conservancy is happy to work with individuals, organizations, nonprofits and government. The Concept Proposal is 10-12 pages and is a basic checklist for the Conservancy to better understand what type of project is being proposed. Full applications would be in May or June of this year. This will be the second round of funding for Proposition 68.

Ben Clay thanked everyone and offered the Conservancy's assistance for anyone with questions. There are many partners working towards the same goals. The next meeting is March 11. Ben also reminded everyone about ethics training and From700.

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 pm

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

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 May 13, 2021**

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 May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT  
*(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)*

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY (*INFORMATIONAL*)

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 85 – WILDFIRE EARLY ACTION PLAN  
***(INFORMATIONAL)***

In April 2021, Governor Newsom and the State Legislature approved \$536 million for wildfire protection projects throughout state including \$12 million in the 2021-2022 state budget for the San Diego River Conservancy to enact early action projects to reduce the risk of wildfires. The intent of the allocation is to take action to restore the ecological health of forests and watersheds, establish fuel breaks and reduce the chance of wildfires prior to the start of the wildfire season.

Presentation:

Deanna Spehn, Policy Director of Senate President pro Tempore  
Toni Atkins

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE PLAN **(ACTION)**  
The San Diego River Conservancy through its partners will implement projects including fuel reduction and healthy forest activities that advance wildfire preparedness and improve defensible space to mitigate the risk of wildfires. Project funding provided by Wildfire Early Action Plan through Senate Bill 85 in support of [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Presentation:  
Julia Richards, Executive Officer

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF GREATER  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY **(ACTION)**

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (Resource Conservation District) has existing programs for defensible space, chipping and educational outreach to mitigate risk of wildfire. These programs and services foster fire prevention and safety throughout the County and encourage community involvement. Conservancy staff recommends funding \$3,500,000 to expand program capacity and assist private landowners through fuel reduction activities in the County of San Diego. Funding provided by Wildfire Early Action Plan through Senate Bill 85 in support of [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Presentation:

Ann Baldrige, Community Programs Director, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 21-04

**Resolution No: 21-04**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$3,500,000 THROUGH THE  
WILDFIRE EARLY ACTION PLAN (SENATE BILL 85) TO THE RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF GREATER SAN DIEGO TO EXPAND EXISTING  
PROGRAMS FOR FUEL REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO REDUCE RISK  
OF FIRE IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

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WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by protecting, conserving and restoring the San Diego River area and lands within the San Diego Rivers Watershed Consortium Program; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under Senate Bill 85 for \$12,000,000 to fund wildfire and forest resilience; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used to strengthen fire resiliency including creating fire breaks, fuel reduction, the removal of dead, diseased and dying trees, the removal of invasive non-native vegetation, reforestation projects, repairing fire access roads, monitoring and assessing forest health, and public outreach to support and encourage home hardening in the wildland urban interface zone; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego (Resource Conservation District) applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for funds to implement fuel reduction projects and community outreach strategies in the Wildlife Urban Interface areas in the following watersheds: San Diego River, Otay River, Sweetwater River and Tijuana River (the Project); and

WHEREAS, Resource Conservation District requests \$3,501,084.00; and staff is recommending \$3,500,000.00 to implement this Project.

WHEREAS, this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, Program 2: Support and Encourage Recreation, Program 3: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, Program 5: Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, and Program 6 Expand the Organizations Capacity and Public Outreach,

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy staff have reviewed the grant application, met with the applicant and recommends the Project for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board, based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits:

1. The proposed Project is consistent with the purposes and intent of Senate Bill 85.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Sections 32630-32659.9).
3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$3,500,000.00 (Three

Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars) from Senate Bill 85 funds to Resource Conservation District for the Project.

4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts and other documents needed for the completion of the Project.
5. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule.

Approved and adopted the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 21-04 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Julia L. Richards  
 Executive Officer

San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board Members Roll Call Vote

Name	Ayes	Noes	Abstained
CNRA: Amanda Martin			
DOF: Sally Lukenbill			
CADFW: Richard Burg			
Randy Wilde SD Mayor Designee			
Joel Anderson			
Raul Campillo			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
J. Cody Petterson			
Clarissa Falcon			
John Elliott			
Elsa Saxod			
DPR Ray Lennox, Designee			
DPR Gina Moran, Designee			
Dustin Trotter			

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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**Staff Recommendation**  
**SDRC Resolution 21-04**  
May 13, 2021

## WILDFIRE EARLY ACTION PLAN

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to provide up to \$3,500,000 to the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego to provide reduction services to San Diego residents, helping to reduce the risk of wildfire in San Diego County prior to the start of wildfire season.

**LOCATION:** Private property in San Diego County within the watersheds of San Diego, Sweetwater, Otay and Tijuana Rivers (US only), California.

**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:** Staff recommends that the San Diego River Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to the San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, § 32630 et seq.):

The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of funding for wildfire, climate, watershed, and forest health projects, as well as implementation of modern-day vegetation management, forest management, and community hardening plans, specifically as follows:

**To the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, the sum of up to \$3,500,000 (Three million five hundred thousand dollars) to provide:**

- **no-cost fuel reduction services and defensible space assistance,**
- **provide technical assistance to smaller, local Fire Safe Councils,**
- **provide community outreach and support through educational programs and workshops on Fire Preparedness in the Wildland Urban Interface and Creating/Maintaining Defensible Space (Project).**

Prior to the disbursement of funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule, and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Diego River Conservancy Act, including Section 32649.
2. The proposed Project is consistent with the purposes and intent of Senate Bill 85.

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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3. The proposed Project is consistent with California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

For approximately twenty years, the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego (RCD) and the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County have worked diligently to help keep our county and its residents fire safe through its programs for fuels reduction, defensible space, local fire safe council support, and by helping smaller communities develop local Fire Safe Councils and their own Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's).

It is important to protect homes and infrastructure throughout the county, but this would allow increased direct funding to accommodate the long-term trend of increasing populations choosing to live in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). It is critical to increase vulnerable communities' resilience to uncontrolled wildfires. Immediate fuels reduction will reduce the occurrence of damaging wildfires and the threats they pose to life, property, infrastructure and natural resources through the implementation of effective and efficient fire prevention programs and activities.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY AND BUDGET:**

Proposed project will reduce wildfire threat in San Diego County by providing free curbside chipping for residents, free defensible space assistance for those who are elderly, low-income or disabled by creating or maintaining 100' of defensible space around structures. Residents who do not need defensible space assistance to prepare their piles for chipping, may submit an application for service via phone, website, or email. Project will provide for the removal of dead, diseased and dying trees (fuel) within 100' of habitable structures. Work will be scheduled with a licensed, bonded, and insured contractor who will chip/mulch the vegetation onsite into weed-reducing ground cover that the homeowners are able to use. In addition, the RCD partners with SDG&E, CALFIRE, and other agencies to maintain the integrity of their fuel breaks by targeting communities that abut them. By providing focused efforts for fuel reduction in these high-risk areas, the impact will ensure maximum efficiency for those established fuel breaks.

This project will contain components:

1. Fuel reduction activities including but not limited to chipping, tree trimming, weed whipping, brush clearing, removal of diseased, dead and dying trees for defensible space as required under state and local codes.
2. Education and Outreach programs that will provide free workshops for county residents teaching them how to make their properties fire safe and reduce the loss of lives, injuries, and property loss due to catastrophic wildfires. The workshops offered will instruct on Defensible Space, Ready-Set-Go Evacuation Preparedness, and WUI Wildland Urban Interface which helps residents to understand the principles used by fire fighters in suppressing wildland fire, fire behavior prediction and what aspects of topography, fuels, and weather can impact a fire. These workshops are taught by local fire professionals in

## SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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partnership with smaller fire safe councils in the county and help to provide capacity building and training in areas in our community that are currently underserved.

3. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County has as one of its objectives to partner with the many smaller Fire Safe Councils in San Diego County and provide support and technical assistance. Assistance is offered through CWPP Training and workshops where our Agency Partners train communities on how to create a CWPP. They are supported with templates, training and guidance throughout the process from conception to acceptance from CalFire.

**Goals:**

1. Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and reduce life, property and natural resource losses through the implementation of effective and efficient fire prevention programs and activities.
2. Creating and maintaining defensible space is the primary focus throughout the Project and is aligned with Forest Action Plan and by providing private property owners, and communities' education in wildfire prevention and making their properties and communities more fire prepared.

**Table 1. Estimated Project Budget**

<b>Task #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Task 1. Project Administration and Reporting	Project administration, accounting, management and oversight	\$431,584	Quarterly reporting throughout grant term
Task 2. Implementation	Fuels Reduction, Chipping, Vegetation Management, Shaded Fuel Breaks or Defensible Space Dead Tree Removal, Homeowner outreach, GIS mapping, Technical Assistance, Fire Safety and Prevention Education, Supplies, Equipment, Workshop Materials	\$3,068,416	Throughout grant period
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,500,000</b>	

**PROJECT FINANCING:** The total project amount is \$3,500,000.00. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is provided by a \$12,000,000.00 allocation under Senate Bill 85, SECTION 15 of the Budget Act of 2020.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:** This project

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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would be undertaken consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code, §§ 32630-32659.9).

### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

Consistent with Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources and Program 5, Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023, and Program 6, entitled Expand the Organization's Capacity and Public Outreach, states in the pertinent part "to identify and pursue projects that address climate change and its impacts on the San Diego River watershed."

### **CONSISTENCY WITH PURPOSES OF THE FUNDING SOURCE**

Senate Bill 85 provides short- and long-term funding for wildfire, climate, watershed, and forest health, as well as implement modern-day vegetation, forest management, and community hardening plans, and a fire resiliency workforce. The funding is immediately available.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH THE WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN:**

Fuel management activities provided under this Project are supported by the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (January 2021). The Plan focuses building California's resilience to catastrophic wildfires means restoring the health of our forests and diverse landscapes across the state and strengthening wildfire preparation within our communities. This Project achieves one or more of the purposes of the Plan:

- Fuels Reduction or Forest Thinning Projects
- Resilient/Healthy Forests
- Prescribed Fire
- Shaded Fuel Breaks or Defensible Space projects
- Restoration and enhancement of fire-prone habitats using methods known to reduce fire risk

### **ALIGNMENT WITH PLANS AND PRIORITIES**

- A. California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan
- B. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment
- C. State Hazard Mitigation Plan
- D. Forest Action Plan
- E. Natural and Working Lands 2030
- F. Safeguarding California

# **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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G. Governor's Executive Orders

H. San Diego River Conservancy's Climate Change Policy

## **BENEFITS**

To help prepare San Diego communities for another fire season exacerbated by drought conditions by utilizing fuel reduction practices, vegetative management and removal of dead or dying trees in high-risk zones such as urban canyons, parks, open space, forests and along the wildland urban interfaces.

To reduce risk of fire and damage to people and property by implementing activities that reduce fuel loads and in turn, reduce wildfire severity. The No-Cost Chipping program provides residents the opportunity to tackle dangerous fuels materials and provides them with weed reducing mulch/ground cover.

The Defensible Space Assistance Program was created to help low-income seniors and physically disabled persons adhere to defensible space regulations:

- Brush and tree trimming/thinning.
- Raking of dead leaves and pine needles.
- Chipping of removed vegetation. (Chips are left on site).
- On-site education about effective defensible space.
- Performed by professional contractors, who are bonded and insured.

## **PROJECT READINESS**

Project to start as soon as possible.

## **PERMIT COMPLIANCE**

All work will be performed on private land using a written agreement between RCD and landowner.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO CANYONLANDS **(ACTION)**  
San Diego Canyonlands proposes to reduce fuel loads in the following canyons: Ruffin/Sandrock, Rueda, Shepard, and Navajo, which are tributaries to the San Diego River. All potential project areas are owned by the City of San Diego and are within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division. Conservancy staff recommends funding \$1,000,000 for fuel reduction activities to mitigate fire risk in the City of San Diego. Funding provided by Wildfire Early Action Plan through Senate Bill 85 in support of [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Presentation:

Miranda Hyldahl, Associate Director, San Diego Canyonlands

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 21-05

**Resolution No: 21-05**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$1,000,000 THROUGH THE  
WILDFIRE EARLY ACTION PLAN (SENATE BILL 85) TO THE SAN DIEGO  
CANYONLANDS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

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WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by protecting, conserving and restoring the San Diego River area and lands within the San Diego Rivers Watershed Consortium Program; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under Senate Bill 85 for \$12,000,000 to fund wildfire and forest resilience; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used to strengthen fire resiliency including but not limited to creating fire breaks, fuel reduction, the removal of dead, diseased and dying trees, the removal of invasive non-native vegetation, reforestation projects, repairing fire access roads, monitoring and assessing forest health, public outreach and other actions to reduce the risk of fire; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Canyonlands applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for funds to implement fuel reduction projects, workforce training and community outreach within the City of San Diego and in San Diego River watershed (the Project); and

WHEREAS, San Diego Canyonlands requests \$1,070,563.00; and staff is recommending \$1,000,000.00 to implement this Project.

WHEREAS, this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, Program 2: Support and Encourage Recreation, Program 3: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, Program 5: Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, and Program 6 Expand the Organizations Capacity and Public Outreach; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy staff have reviewed the grant application, met with the applicant and recommends the Project for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board, based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits:

1. The proposed Project is consistent with the purposes and intent of Senate Bill 85.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Sections 32630-32659.9).
3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) from Senate Bill 85 funds to San Diego Canyonlands to implement the Project.

4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts and other documents needed for the completion of the Project.
5. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule.

Approved and adopted the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 21-05 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Julia L. Richards  
 Executive Officer

San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board Members Roll Call Vote

Name	Ayes	Noes	Abstained
CNRA: Amanda Martin			
DOF: Sally Lukenbill			
CADFW: Richard Burg			
Randy Wilde SD Mayor Designee			
Joel Anderson			
Raul Campillo			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
J. Cody Petterson			
Clarissa Falcon			
John Elliott			
Elsa Saxod			
DPR Ray Lennox, Designee			
DPR Gina Moran, Designee			
Dustin Trotter			

# **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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**Staff Recommendation  
SDRC Resolution 21-05  
May 13, 2021**

## **WILDFIRE EARLY ACTION PLAN**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to provide up to \$1,000,000 to San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL) to reduce fuel loads within the San Diego River watershed to improve preparedness for the wildfire season.

**LOCATION:** In the Serra Mesa and Tierrasanta communities and within the San Diego River watershed. All areas are located within the City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division, San Diego County, California.

**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:** Staff recommends that the San Diego River Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to the San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, § 32630 et seq.):

The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement funding for wildfire, climate, watershed, and forest health projects, as well as implement modern-day vegetation, forest management, and community hardening plans, specifically as follows:

**To San Diego Canyonlands the sum of \$1,000,000 (One million dollars) to provide:**

- **fuel reduction and vegetative management activities,**
- **create firebreaks and harden properties,**
- **canyon restoration to prevent reintroduction of invasive species (Project).**

Prior to the disbursement of funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule, and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Diego River Conservancy Act, including Section 32649.
2. The proposed Project is consistent with the purposes and intent of Senate Bill 85.
3. The proposed project is consistent with California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Program.

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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## PROJECT SUMMARY AND BUDGET:

The San Diego Canyonlands's San Diego River Watershed Canyons Fire Resiliency Program will reduce the risk of fire on public property in the tributary canyons of the San Diego River through fuel reduction activities; removal of small dead, dying, and diseased trees; and the removal of invasive, non-native vegetation located within City of San Diego, Open Space Division. Within the city owned land are Brush Management Zones (BMZ) located adjacent to private property and will be targeted to create fuel breaks to reduce the fire risk damage while maintaining habitat values throughout the canyons' ecosystems.

Many of the targeted project areas, including Ruffin/Sandrock, Rueda, Shepard, and Navajo Canyon Open Spaces canyons (approximately 1,110 acres), are also within the Multiple Species Conservation Program. Trailside, ruderal, and invasive species vegetation management will be conducted, and native cover will be added as a restoration component to prevent reintroduction of invasive species. Additionally, high fire risk invasive species within canyon habitat areas such as *Arundo donax* and *Cortaderia* sps. within streambeds will be controlled to reduce overall fire risk.

As part of the new *Social Workforce Program*, several social service organizations such as Second Chance, the San Diego Center for Children, and the Department of Rehabilitation will provide work and training opportunities. *Social Workforce Program* participants will receive on-the-job training in all types of brush management techniques that will make them eligible for similar work in the private sector following their training period.

The Urban Corps will be hired as subcontractors for some portions of this work, managed by the SDCL Restoration Ecologist for quality control. SDCL will also engage local canyon friends' groups to provide volunteer support, especially for follow-on weed management and trash clean-up, educating canyon neighbors on the value of nearby canyon habitats and how to support those habitats while also reducing fire risk. SDCL maintains long-term relationships with canyon friends' groups and provides volunteer work opportunities that can be conducted to maintain connections between natural resources and local communities.

SDCL will prepare annual reports during the grant period documenting all work performed under this grant as well as the results of qualitative monitoring and detailed quantitative vegetation sampling performed within the work areas.

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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**Table 1. Estimated Budget and Anticipated Schedule**

<b>Task #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Task 1	Project Management & Administration	\$120,000	Quarterly reporting throughout grant term
Task 2	Construction/Implementation	\$775,000	Throughout grant term
Task 3	Indirect	\$105,000	Throughout grant term
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,000,000</b>	

**PROJECT FINANCING:** The total project amount is \$1,000,000. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is the \$12 million allocation under Senate Bill 85, SECTION 15 of the Budget Act of 2020.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:** This project would be undertaken consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation (Public Resources Code, §§ 32630-32659.9).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**  
 Consistent with Program 2 Support and Encourage Recreation and Education, Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, Program 5, Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, and Program 6, Expand the Organization’s Capacity and Public Outreach, which states in pertinent part “identify and pursue projects that address climate change and its impacts on the San Diego River watershed,” from the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023.

**CONSISTENCY WITH PURPOSES OF THE FUNDING SOURCE**  
 Senate Bill 85 provides short- and long-term funding for wildfire, climate, watershed, and forest health, as well as to implement modern-day vegetation, forest management, and community hardening plans, and a fire resiliency workforce. The funding is immediately available for shovel-ready projects.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PROGRAM:**

This project achieves one or more of the purposes of California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Program:

- Fuels Reduction or Forest Thinning Projects
- Vegetation Management
- Shaded Fuel Breaks or Defensible Space projects
- Restoration and enhancement of fire-prone habitats using methods known to reduce fire risk

# **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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## **ALIGNMENT WITH PLANS AND PRIORITIES**

- A. California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan
- B. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment
- C. State Hazard Mitigation Plan
- D. California Forest Action Plan
- E. Natural and Working Lands 2030
- F. Safeguarding California
- G. California Wildlife Action Plan
- H. San Diego River Conservancy's Climate Change Policy
- I. Governor's Executive Orders
- J. City of San Diego Climate Action Plan (2015)
- K. City of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) Subarea Plan
- L. San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan
- M. City of San Diego General Plan of 2008

## **BENEFITS**

To help prepare the City of San Diego's communities for another fire season by fuel reduction, vegetative management and removal of dead or dying trees in high-risk zones such as urban canyons, parks, open space, urban forests and brush management zones adjacent to private property.

These activities reduce the risk of fire and damage to people and property by altering biomass fuels and reducing total loads include reducing small fuels, reducing large fuels, and eliminating fuel ladders to reduce fire severity. Cleared areas also allow better access for first responders.

Ongoing monitoring for completed work areas will be conducted on a quarterly basis throughout the project with teams returning for maintenance as needed to prevent reintroduction of invasive species. In areas of seeding and replanting, SDCL will conduct quarterly qualitative monitoring and annual quantitative vegetation sampling of native planting coverage. California Native Plant Society (CNPS)-approved point-intercept line transect (4' X 50' meter transects) monitoring methods have a target survivorship rate of

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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50% 1-year following planting; and 75% 2-years following planting.

Chipping will be used onsite for weed suppression because it prevents the reintroduction of invasive vegetation after thinning, which also minimizes biomass going to the landfill.

### **PROJECT READINESS**

Project to start as soon as possible.

### **PERMIT COMPLIANCE**

San Diego Canyonlands holds a Master Right of Entry (ROE) that provides access for habitat restoration and canyon enhancement. All work conducted in this Project falls under SDCL's Master ROE and existing City-held EIRs for BMZ, Open Space trail management, and the Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA)—the City's jurisdiction within the MSCP.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO COUNTY – DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (***INFORMATIONAL***)

San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved \$3,300,000 to acquire 98 acres in El Monte Valley adjacent to the San Diego River. San Diego County Board of Supervisors also approved additional investments, which include updating baseball little league facility, trail construction, and native habitat restoration. County Parks staff will provide an overview.

Presentation:

Ileszic Formeller, Park Project Manager, County of San Diego  
Parks and Recreation

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK IPU  
**(*INFORMATIONAL*)**

After over 23 years of visioning and planning, California State Parks transformed the old Caltrans District 11 Office into a new public open space located in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park on Taylor Street in the City of San Diego. California State Parks has been meeting with the Old Town Working Group since 2013 to discuss interpretation and education for the Land of the First People Exhibit Area at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. This Working Group has been instrumental in providing an opportunity for the Kumeyaay Nation to shape the interpretation of Kumeyaay culture and their connections to the San Diego River and to Old Town San Diego.

Presentation:

Nancy Mendez, Interpretive Development, California State Parks  
Marla Mealey, Archaeologist, California State Parks  
Megan Suster, Interpretive Implementation and Operation,  
California State Parks

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: 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:

- US Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest Agreement
- Proposition 68 Update

FS Agreement No. 21-CO-11050200-

Cooperator Agreement No. \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER AGREEMENT**  
**COLLECTION AGREEMENT**  
**Between The**  
**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**  
**And The**  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,**  
**U.S. FOREST SERVICE**  
**CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST**

This MASTER COLLECTION AGREEMENT is hereby entered into by and between the San Diego River Conservancy, hereinafter referred to as “SDRC”, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest, hereinafter referred to as the “U.S. Forest Service,” under the provisions of the Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914 (16 U.S.C. 498 as amended by Pub. L. 104-127).

Background: The San Diego River Conservancy’s mission is to conserve land, support and encourage recreation and education, preserve and restore natural resources, protect and preserve cultural and historical resources, enhance water quality and natural flood conveyance within the watersheds of the San Diego River, Sweetwater River, Otay River, and Tijuana River (US) and it is accomplished by (1) acquiring, managing and conserving land; and (2) protecting or providing recreational opportunities, open space, wildlife species and habitat, wetlands, water quality, natural flood conveyance, historical/cultural resources, and educational opportunities.

The Forest Service mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. These missions overlap and have enabled both parties to work together over the years to improve access to Forest Service system trails.

Both agencies are now proposing to work together to achieve the common goals of protecting and improving the San Diego River, Sweetwater River, Otay River and Tijuana River watersheds, and providing the public with improved compatible recreation opportunities and a healthy and resilient forest.

The SDRC desires, and is willing to fund (or cost-share) resources necessary, to help with 1) healthy forest activities and monitoring; 2) Fire prevention – fuels reduction/ vegetation management; 3) Prescribed burns; 4) Remove dead and dying trees; 5) Watershed protection; 6) Biodiversity and wildlife corridors; 7) Recreation and public access (Trail/trailhead); 8) Protection of natural, cultural and historical resources; 9) Climate change; and 10) Water source protection (water quality and supply).



The Forest Service is authorized to work cooperatively with others where such cooperation will benefit its programs.

Per the State of California's requirement to show utilization of funds, projects created under SPAs will be funded out of the State General Fund and the State General Obligation Fund.

Title: The Master Collection Agreement for Watershed, Forest Health and Recreational Opportunity Improvements

**I. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this master agreement is to document the voluntary contribution of funds from SDRC to the U.S. Forest Service to establish a framework for the development of individual Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) to improve watershed conditions on National Forest System lands and within the San Diego River Conservancy area of responsibility that includes the San Diego River, Sweetwater River, Otay River, and Tijuana River Watersheds. Additionally, the purpose of this agreement is to document the voluntary contributions of funds from the SDRC. SDRC may fund and/or work on projects that may include acquiring, managing and/or conserving land while protecting open space, wildlife species and habitat, wetlands, water quality, natural flood conveyance, historical/cultural resources, educational opportunities and/or providing for recreational opportunities, in accordance with the following provisions and any incorporated Supplemental Project Agreements.

## **II. THE SDRC SHALL:**

- A. LEGAL AUTHORITY. SDRC shall have the legal authority to enter into this agreement, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project, which includes funds sufficient to pay the nonfederal share of project costs, when applicable.
- B. Perform in accordance with a SPAs Financial Plan.
- C. Upon presentation of a Bill for Collection, reimburse the U.S. Forest Service the amount agreed to in the SPAs Financial Plan.
- D. Coordinate with U.S. Forest Service when funding is available for projects.
- E. Work collaboratively with the U.S. Forest Service to develop individual Collection SPAs including a financial plan, authorizing the implementation of projects.
- F. Review proposed U.S. Forest Service work projects and select those that can be satisfactorily accomplished by Forest Service staff, cooperators and/or contractors.
- G. Participate as appropriate in the Forest Service planning process regarding management of the National Forest System lands within the San Diego River Conservancy area of responsibility.



- H. Pursue when appropriate, financing (such as grant funding) and other support for portions of the SDRC are of responsibility and associated amenities.
- I. Collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service in advising the public of opportunities to participate in the environmental planning process for projects that adjoin, or have effects on, the San Diego River Conservancy area of responsibility or supporting facilities.

### III. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

- A. REIMBURSABLE BILLING. Under individual SPAs, the U.S. Forest Service shall bill SDRC quarterly as of December, March, June, September for funds sufficient to cover the costs for the specific payment period. All reimbursement billings must be completed within the same fiscal year as U.S. Forest Service expenditures. Overhead is assessed at the rate of 12 percent. Billings must be sent to:

San Diego River Conservancy  
State of California  
11769 Waterhill Road, Bldg 2  
Lakeside, CA 92040

Or emailed to [Wendell.taper@sdrc.ca.gov](mailto:Wendell.taper@sdrc.ca.gov) and  
[Julia.richards@sdrc.ca.gov](mailto:Julia.richards@sdrc.ca.gov)

The U.S. Forest Service is required to issue bills for expenditures incurred under reimbursable agreements at the end of or prior to the end of each fiscal year. Therefore, an out-of-cycle bill may be received by SDRC.

If payment is not received to the satisfaction of the U.S. Forest Service by the date specified on the Bill for Collection (Form FS-6500-89), the U.S. Forest Service shall exercise its rights regarding the collection of debts owed to the United States. Conditions specified in an associated payment bond guaranteeing payment must also be met.

- B. SPECIAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS – FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION. Reimbursable billings shall be issued at the prescribed frequency based on expenditures recorded in the U.S. Forest Service accounting system for work performed. Bills for Collection reflect an aggregate amount for the billing period. U.S. Forest Service Transaction Register listing itemized expenses will be provided upon request at the end of a project or annually for long-term agreements. Provision of the Transaction Register or other supporting documentation accompanying individual bills will be limited to agreements over \$2,500.00, and only when SDRC requirements are clearly defined within this clause.

The special billing requirements are: quarterly



C. **SPECIAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS – PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION.** The U.S. Forest Service Program Manager shall provide SDRC with a written report that meets SDRC’s specific documentation requirements.

**The special program documentation are:** USFS invoice, progress report summarizing activities within the billing period (including photo/video documentation), final report summary of all invoices and all project work completed.

D. Submit, at the request of SDRC and the discretion of the U.S. Forest Service, workproject proposals to SDRC for review and consideration.

E. Perform in accordance with a SPA’s attached Financial Plan.

F. Advise the SDRC and the public of opportunities to participate in the environmental planning process. The opportunities would be for projects that adjoin, or have effects on, the SDRC area of responsibility or supporting facilities.

G. Select projects and work collaboratively with SDRC to develop individual Collection SPA's including a financial plan, authorizing the implementation of the projects.

H. Assess current forest priorities and when necessary work with cooperators or contractors to accomplish work.

I. Obtain any approvals and permits required by any state, federal, or local agency prior to commencing construction or operational activities for selected projects.

J. Assess current forest priorities when new opportunities for financing projects is available and inform SDRC on forest capacity and need.

**IV. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:**

A. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS.** Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

**Principal Cooperator Contacts:**

<b>Cooperator Program Contact</b>	<b>Cooperator Administrative Contact</b>
Julia L. Richards 11796 Waterhill Road Lakeside, CA 92040 Phone: 619-390-0534 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:julia.richards@sdrc.ca.gov">julia.richards@sdrc.ca.gov</a>	Wendell Taper 11796 Waterhill Road Lakeside, CA 92040 Phone: 619-390-0568 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:Wendell.taper@sdrc.ca.gov">Wendell.taper@sdrc.ca.gov</a>



**Principal U.S. Forest Service Contacts:**

<b>U.S. Forest Service Program Manager Contact</b>	<b>U.S. Forest Service Administrative Contact</b>
Jeff Heys 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92127 Phone: 858-674-2915 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:jeff.heys@usda.gov">jeff.heys@usda.gov</a>	Anabele Cornejo 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92127 Phone: 858-674-2985 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:anabele.cornejo@usda.gov">anabele.cornejo@usda.gov</a>
	<b>U.S. Forest Service Grants and Agreement Contact</b>
	Geraldine C. Bordash (Gerri) Grants Management Specialist Pacific Southwest Region 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592-1110 Phone: 707-562-8782 FAX: 707-562-9144 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:gerri.bordash@usda.gov">gerri.bordash@usda.gov</a>

- B. SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AGREEMENTS (SPA). Nothing in this agreement obligates either party to offer or accept any project proposals under this agreement. Any projects added to this agreement must be by mutual consent of the parties through a specific SPA.
- C. AVAILABILITY FOR CONSULTATION. Both parties will make themselves available at mutually agreeable times for continuing consultation to discuss the conditions covered by this agreement and agree to actions essential to fulfill its purposes.
- D. REFUNDS. Funds collected in advance by the U.S. Forest Service, which are not spent or obligated for the project(s) approved under this agreement, may be refunded to SDRC, authorized for use for a new agreement by SDRC, or waived by SDRC. A Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) by SDRC may be necessary to process a refund. Due to processing costs, any balance less than \$25 shall not be refunded to SDRC.
- E. PUBLIC NOTICES. It is the U.S. Forest Service's policy to inform the public as fully as possible of its programs and activities. SDRC is/are encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this agreement and, from time to time, to announce progress and accomplishments. Press releases or other public notices should include a statement substantially as follows:

"The Cleveland National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, is working cooperatively with SDRC to protect and improve the SD River, Sweetwater



River, Otay River and the Tijuana River watersheds and providing the public with improved recreation opportunities and a healthy and resilient forest ."

SDRC may call on the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communication for advice regarding public notices. SDRC is/are requested to provide copies of notices or announcements to the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager and to the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications as far in advance of release as possible.

- F. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.
- G. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Public access to agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information regulations (5 U.S.C. 552). Requests for research data are subject to 2 CFR 215.36.

Public access to culturally sensitive data and information of Federally-recognized Tribes may also be explicitly limited by P.L. 110-234, Title VIII Subtitle B §8106 (2009 Farm Bill).

- H. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This agreement in no way restricts the U.S. Forest Service or SDRC from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- I. ENDORSEMENT. Any of SDRC's contributions made under this agreement do not by direct reference or implication convey U.S. Forest Service endorsement of SDRC's products or activities.
- J. NOTICES. Any communication affecting the operations covered by this agreement by the U.S. Forest Service or SDRC will be sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:

To the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified in the agreement.

To SDRC, at SDRC's address shown in the agreement or such other address designated within the agreement.

Notices are effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- K. COLLABORATION. The U.S. Forest Service and SDRC may mutually agree to collaborate in the review of draft publications, interpretive signs, manuscripts, and other printed material and audiovisuals prior to completion. This agreement, in and of itself, does not authorize SDRC's participation in the project.



- L. USE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA. In order for SDRC to use the U.S. Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted from the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications (Washington Office). A written request will be submitted by Forest Service to the Cleveland National Forest, to the Office of Communications Assistant Director, Visual Information and Publishing Services prior to use of the insignia. The U.S. Forest Service Cleveland National Forest will notify SDRC when permission is granted.
- M. U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS, AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. SDRC shall acknowledge U.S. Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this agreement.
- N. PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS. Improvements placed by SDRC on National Forest System land at the direction or with the approval of the U.S. Forest Service become property of the United States. These improvements are subject to the same regulations and administration of the U.S. Forest Service as would other national forest improvements of a similar nature. No part of this agreement entitles SDRC to any interest in the improvements, other than the right to use them under applicable U.S. Forest Service regulations.
- O. PURCHASE OF ASSETS. Any assets (such as equipment, property, or improvements) purchased by the U.S. Forest Service with SDRC's contributions shall become the property of the U.S. Forest Service.
- P. TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND CERTIFICATION OF SAWYERS. Any of the cooperator's employees, and any participants and volunteers engaged on behalf of the cooperator and Forest Service, who will use chain saws or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands to conduct the program of work contained in this agreement must be trained, evaluated, and certified in accordance with Forest Service Manual 2358 and Forest Service Handbook 6709.11, section 22.48b. The cooperator is responsible for providing this training, evaluation, and certification, unless the Forest Service and the cooperator determine it is not in the best interest of the partnership. In these circumstances, the Forest Service, upon request and based on availability of Agency funding and personnel, may assist with developing and conducting training, evaluation, and certification of the cooperator's employees, and any volunteers and participants engaged on behalf of the cooperator and the Forest Service, who will use chain saws or cross cut saws on National Forest System lands.
- Q. OFFSETS, CLAIMS AND RIGHTS. Any and all activities entered into or approved by this agreement will create and support afforestation/ reforestation efforts within the National Forest System without generating carbon credits. The U.S. Forest Service does not make claims of permanence or any guarantees of carbon sequestration on lands reforested or afforested through partner assistance. The U.S. Forest Service will provide



for long-term management of reforested and afforested lands, according to applicable Federal statute regulations and forest plans.

- R. NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT – PRINTED, ELECTRONIC, OR AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL. SDRC shall include the following statement, in full, in any printed, audiovisual material, or electronic media for public distribution developed or printed with any Federal funding.

*In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)*

**To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call toll free voice (866) 632-9992, TDD (800)877-8339, or voice relay (866) 377-8642. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

If the material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material must, at minimum, include the following statement, in print size no smaller than the text:

*"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."*

- S. TERMINATION FOR COLLECTION AGREEMENTS. Either party, in writing, may terminate this agreement in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration. The U.S. Forest Service shall not incur any new obligations for the terminated portion of this agreement after the effective date of termination and shall cancel as many obligations as possible. Full credit must be allowed for U.S. Forest Service expenses and all non-cancelable obligations properly incurred up to the effective date of termination.
- T. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION. SDRC shall immediately inform the U.S. Forest Service if they or any of their principals are presently excluded, debarred, or suspended from entering into covered transactions with the Federal Government according to the terms of 2 CFR Part 180. Additionally, should SDRC or any of their principals receive a transmittal letter or other official Federal notice of debarment or suspension, then they shall notify the U.S. Forest Service without undue delay. This applies whether the exclusion, debarment, or suspension is voluntary or involuntary.
- U. MODIFICATIONS. Modifications within the scope of this agreement must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing, at least 30 days prior to implementation of the requested change. The U.S. Forest Service is not obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.
- V. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This agreement is executed as of the date of the last signature, and is effective through May 15, 2026 at which time it will expire.



The expiration date is the final date for completion of all work activities under this agreement.

W. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement. In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below.

---

JULIA L. RICHARDS, Executive Officer  
The San Diego River Conservancy

Date

---

SCOTT TANGENBERG, Forest Supervisor  
U.S. Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest

Date

The authority and format of this agreement have been reviewed and approved for signature.

---

GERALDINE C. BORDASH  
U.S. Forest Service Grants Management Specialist

Date

Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal relay at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 14

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING

**The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held  
Thursday, July 8, 2021 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of May 13, 2021**

ITEM: 15

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT