

**San Diego River Conservancy
Agenda Item 8
Proposition 1 Grant Program Summary**

The Conservancy staff has prepared this summary for Conservancy's Governing Board.

Background

California voters passed Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Bond Act of 2014, on November 4, 2014 (Prop 1). Prop 1 added Section 79731 to the California Water Code, authorizing the state to issue bonds, and the legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state. The bond measure included an allocation of \$17,000,000 for the San Diego River Conservancy (Conservancy). The Conservancy has prepared this project summary for Conservancy's Governing Board review.

Prop 1, Round 1: The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 state budget included an appropriation of \$3 million. The Conservancy received 12 concept proposals requesting \$5,448,265. The Board awarded 7 projects for \$3,426,255.86.

Prop 1, Round 2: The FY 2016-17 state budget included an appropriation of \$4 million. The Conservancy received 12 concept proposals requesting \$5,406,847. The Board awarded 5 projects for \$2,259,045.18.

Prop 1, Round 3: For FY 2018-19, the Conservancy announced the availability of approximately \$4 million. The Conservancy received 8 concept proposals requesting \$5,687,814. The Board awarded 2 projects for \$1,293,222.00.

Prop 1 Round 4: For FY 19-20 The Conservancy received 10 Concept proposals requesting \$9,356,205. The Board awarded 6 projects for \$2,500,000.00 (FY18/19 allocation).

Summary of Board approved projects to date:

Since the initiation of the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program, the Conservancy has received 52 Concept Proposals requesting more than \$36,000,000. Over four competitive rounds, 20 grants were awarded and authorized by the Board for a total amount of approximately \$9,400,000. Ten (10) projects are completed and closed out. While majority of the selected projects are invasive removal, there were also land conservation (112 acres), public access, habitat restoration and water quality enhancement through low impact development best management practices.

12 projects are native habitat restoration including invasive non-native vegetation removal:

- 7 in City of San Diego
- 3 in City of Santee
- 2 in unincorporated San Diego County

5 projects directly improve water quality

- 2 in City of El Cajon
- 1 in City of Santee
- 1 in City of San Diego
- 1 in unincorporated San Diego County

2 projects are acquisitions for land conservation

- El Monte Valley (37 acres)
- San Diego River Headwaters (75 acres)

1 Project supports multi-benefits

- Water quality enhancement, public access, habitat restoration

Approximately \$5,000,000 remains from SDRC's Prop 1 allocation of \$17,000,000.

Current Status for Round 5

Prop 1 Round 5: For FY 2020-21, the Conservancy announced the availability of approximately \$2.5 million. The Conservancy received 10 concept proposals on February 28, 2020 requesting \$10,436,002. The Conservancy received 7 Full Applications on August 28, 2020 and a total of \$8,815,405 was requested.

Summary of Full Applications for Prop 1 Round 5

Proposed Project #044 – Constructed Wetland Revamp
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy requests \$92,367

This proposed project would improve sediment transport by modifying a coffer dam. Currently, the constructed wetland input channels remain clogged during dry flow. This project would redesign the screens and lower the coffer dam to allow proper flow of stormwater and sediment and allow the channels to infiltrate. Applicant proposes \$3,000 or 3% of the total project cost as matching funds.

Proposed Project #045 – Restoration of Alluvial Habitat in the El Monte Valley
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy requests \$557,385

This proposed project would removal and control 5 acres invasive plant species (primarily tamarix sp.) and replace with alluvial scrub habitat. The project would perform a pre and post restoration herpetofauna study conducted by USGS. The project is estimated to take 36 months to complete and applicant would provide \$100,632, or 18% of the total project cost as matching funds.

Proposed Project #047 – Broadway Creek Trash Capture Project
City of El Cajon requests \$750,000

This project proposes to install a 24' wide and 88' long triple reinforced concrete box culvert trash capture device near the Ballantyne Street and Hart Drive intersection. This culvert would filter pollution down to 5mm and perform 97% removal efficiency or higher. Applicant proposes \$1,900,000 or 39% of the total project cost as matching funds.

Proposed Project #048 – Ruffin Canyon Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 2
San Diego Canyonlands requests \$624,916.85

This project proposes to restore 7.1 acres of habitat within Ruffin Canyon. This project would include 3.7-acre wetland and 3.4 acres upland habitat restoration along with approximately 275 palm trees removed by helicopter. Other perennial non-native species would be controlled through recommended measures and native vegetation would be monitored prior to construction and installed onsite where appropriate. Applicant proposes \$45,268.15 or 7% of the total project cost as matching funds.

Proposed Project #049 – Restoration of Alvarado Creek – SDSU Phase
San Diego State University Research Foundation \$1,839,424

This proposed riparian habitat restoration would manage 6.5 acres. Because of current conditions, a California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) and bioassessment before and after implementation, along with water quality monitoring and hydrogeologic data will be generated. Baseline canopy would be measured using transect lines before and after restoration. Specific restoration activities include local plants re-vegetated and monitored across 6.5 acres. Applicant proposes \$312,107 or 14.7% of the total project cost as matching funds.

Proposed Project #050 – Lindo Lake Improvements (Phase 1 – East Basin)
County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation requests \$2,500,000

This project proposes to restore the lake by increasing the depth to a maximum 10ft and reducing lake bottom infiltration by using a natural clay liner. Restoration efforts would restore terrestrial and aquatic habitat that benefit the environment and the community including stormwater filtration basins, storm-drain filtration, and water aeration systems to maintain hydrologic health and healthy oxygen levels to prevent algae blooms. Applicant proposes \$8,727,318 or 76% of the total project cost as matching funds.

Proposed Project #052 – SDSU Mission Valley Development River Park
San Diego State University \$2,451,339

This proposed project would develop park and open space at the SDCCU Stadium site. The Riverpark includes bioretention basins, bioswales, passive and active parks, and riparian habitat to improve the storm water quality, flood protection and environment adjacent to both the San Diego River and Murphy Canyon Creek. Applicant proposes \$5,249,500 or 68% of the total project cost as matching funds.

Projects withdrawn:

Concept proposal #043
Concept proposal #046

Lakeside's River Park Conservancy – land acquisition
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County –
land acquisition

Concept proposal #051

San Diego State University – land acquisition