Revised 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 11, 202**3** 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

TELECONFERENCE MEETING ONLY

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020, and to 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: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81280643020

Audio only (877) 411-9748, Passcode 3906093#

For Questions Contact: Wendell Taper at <u>wendell.taper@sdrc.ca.gov</u> 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 March 2, 2023 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. Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal, Retreatment and Revegetation in Alvarado Creek Phase 7 (ACTION)

The proposed project will restore two sections of Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River, on land owned by San Diego State University (SDSU) and the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans). The San Diego State University Research Foundation, in partnership with SDSU's Soil Ecology and Restoration Group, will remove approximately 13.8 acres of invasive non-native vegetation along the creek and will restore 5 acres with native riparian vegetation which will improve ecosystem functions, provide habitat for native plants and animals, and reduce the risk of fire. This project also includes continuing a study to report on the impacts of creek restoration water quality and on eco-hydraulic dynamics in the San Diego River. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,978,182.00 from the Budget Act of 2021.

Presentation:

Julie Lambert, Program Director, Soil Ecology and Restoration Group, San Diego State University Research Foundation Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-05

8. Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal and Control in Los Coches Creek and other Tributaries to the San Diego River (ACTION)

Lakeside's River Park Conservancy will control invasive non-native plant species by removing biomass from streams and creeks that discharge to the San Diego River. The proposed project plans to control 176 acres of invasive non-native vegetation along sections of Los Coches Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. Within the total acres, 36 acres of biomass are targeted for removal and 140 acres will be retreatment. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,917,980 from the Budget Act of 2021.

Presentation:

Julie Turko, Executive Director, Lakeside River Park Conservancy Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-06

9. San Diego River Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project in El Cajon (ACTION)

The City of El Cajon has proposed a project to enhance the water quality in Forester Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. The project will install 70 full trash capture devices at concrete curb inlet

locations. The storm drain filters will remove all trash and debris from the water before it flows into the creek. The City of El Cajon is committed to operating and maintaining these filters to ensure they function effectively. The project will benefit the area's low-income, disadvantaged, and severely disadvantaged communities. The Conservancy staff recommends a budget of \$1,000,000 for the project, and the funding will be provided by the Budget Act of 2022 if approved.

Presentation:

Mario Sanchez, Deputy Director of Public Works / City Engineer, City of El Cajon Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-07

10. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL/ ACTION)

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer's Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

Department of Finance's May Revise (FY 2023-24)

Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins' 2023 Women Honorees

Awards for Forest and Fire Resilience Projects

River Days is May 13-21. It is a project supported by the San Diego River Park Foundation and other partner organizations to connect and enjoy the San Diego River watershed. Link https://sdriverdays.org/

11. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is anticipated to be held in person on Thursday, July 13, 2023, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

12. 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 <u>Wendell.Taper@sdrc.ca.gov</u>

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM: 2

- SUBJECT:APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)The Board will consider adoption of the March 2, 2023Board Meeting.
- PURPOSE: The minutes of the Board Meeting are attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of March 2, 2023 Public Meeting (Draft Minutes for Approval on May 11, 2023)

CONSERVANCY Board Chair, **Ben Clay** called the March 2, 2022 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:01 p.m.

Item 1. Roll Call

<u>Members Present</u>	
Richard Burg	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jennifer Campbell	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Raul Campillo	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
John Elliott	Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy (arrived 2:05pm)
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ray Lennox	Department of Parks and Recreation
Sally Lukenbill	Department of Finance
Cody Petterson	Speaker of the Assembly
Elsa Saxod	Public at Large
Andrea Scharffer	Natural Resources Agency
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

<u>Absent</u>

Joel Anderson	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Laura Koval	City of Santee

Staff Members Present

Julia Richards	Executive Officer
Wendell Taper	Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Dustin Harrison	Environmental Scientist
Hayley Peterson	Deputy Attorney General

Item 2. Approval of Minutes

Raul Campillo moved for approval of the minutes for the March 2, 2023 meeting and Dr. Jennifer Campbell seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Andrea Scharffer, Sally Lukenbill, Ray Lennox, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, Elsa Saxod (9-0-1) Abstain: Richard Burg

Item 3. Public Comment (INFORMATIONAL)

No report.

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

Ben Clay mentioned a few words on the passing of Deanna Spehn by recognizing all the work she has done for the San Diego River Conservancy. In 2002, when then Senator Christine Kehoe decided to establish the San Diego River Conservancy. The staff person working for Senator Kehoe was Deanna Spehn. A longtime San Diegan and a part of the San Diego community. She was a conservationist, she understood what needed to be

done and how to make it happen. She was the staff person who developed the Conservancy. Without Deanna's insight and knowledge of State Government, the Conservancy wouldn't be here today. In 2020, she worked for Senator Toni Atkins where she made the River Conservancy a key player to enhance and provide the necessary tools.

He attended a meeting with Julia Richards and the San Diego Natural History Museum and their executive staff and how working together can be beneficial. Other meetings were had with Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation to talk about their water recycling project, Lakeside Fire Protection District proposed installation of very high frequency (VHF) repeater tower in Mission Trails Regional Park at Cowles Mountain and the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department.

He noted urban trees struggle with maintenance, pests and not enough water. Trees in the backcountry however, have been successfully growing like the reforestation project in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dr. Jennifer Campbell stated the City of San Diego plans to install 100,000 trees within City limits by 2035, 40,000 of which will be in disadvantaged communities.

Item 5. Deputy Attorney General Report (INFORMATIONALIACTION)

Hayley Peterson reminded Board Members of Statements of Economic interest also known as FORM 700 can be filed two ways: electronically or hardcopy. If filing directly to the FPPC, submit electronically on the California Fair Political Practices Commission website: <u>https://www.fppc.ca.gov/</u> due April 1. If submitted by hardcopy, mail to the Conservancy by March 24th.

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

No report.

Item 7. Election of Officers (ACTION)

Hayley Peterson explained Section 32636 of the San Diego River Conservancy Act requires that the Board holds an election for Chair and Vice Chair every 2 years but they may serve more than one term. The election would have been held in January, but the meeting was canceled.

Elsa Saxod moved for nomination of Ben Clay as Chair of the San Diego River Conservancy and John Elliott seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Andrea Scharffer, Sally Lukenbill, Ray Lennox, Richard Burg, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, John Elliott, Elsa Saxod (11-0-0)

Ben Clay moved for nomination of Ruth Hayward as Vice Chair of the San Diego River Conservancy and Raul Campillo seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Andrea Scharffer, Sally Lukenbill, Ray Lennox, Richard Burg, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, John Elliott, Elsa Saxod (11-0-0)

Item 8. Assemblymember Christopher Ward (INFORMATIONAL)

Christopher Ward stated he is excited to be with the Conservancy today. He just returned from Sacramento and talked about the new redistricting, new core development areas and recreational opportunities. Being appointed by the Assembly to the State Coastal Conservancy, he wants to align grant opportunities and bring funding to San Diego and the watersheds in the region. There are 500,000 people in the watershed. The budget is being worked on by sub-committees for a multi-year plan to fund the water resiliency plans. The Atmospheric

Rivers Program championed by Scripps institute, they want to connect with flood control and water capture. A \$15 billion bond is proposed for wildfire and flood protection purposes. The Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee as well as Natural Resources Committee are focused on the climate and environment as a priority for the region.

There are ways to solve California's budget but they don't want to regress on the proposed funding initiatives. He introduced Teannae Owens one of his representatives.

Ben Clay commented the state will prioritize money and he appreciates Chris' support. He recommends Assemblymember review the Conservancy's annual report in order to provide feedback.

Gary Strawn introduced himself as San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board representative. The mainstem east into lakeside comes down forester creek. The biggest source of water pollution is coming from Forester Creek.

Raul Campillo and Cody Petterson thanked Assemblymember Ward for attending the meeting.

Item 9. San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation Proposal for New Dry Suits (ACTION)

Julia Richards The proposed project will replace 30 old dry suits used by City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. Lifeguards from the Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Team are tasked with entering inland waters during emergencies. New dry suits would reduce Lifeguards' exposure to contamination from potentially hazardous water and allow them to safely perform their job duties in rivers and flooded areas, such as the San Diego and Tijuana Rivers.

The Conservancy staff met with Chief Gartland, his staff and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation to review the proposal. The proposed project is Consistent with San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation, and the Directed Grant Program Supported by 2 Conservancy program areas aligned with other state and local plans relating to floods and emergency rescues. Additional information is located in the staff report, and if approved, funding would be provided through the Budget Act of 2021. Conservancy staff recommends approval of Resolution 23-01 to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation in the amount of \$37,068.42.

Julia introduced Wendy Robinson, Executive Director of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation and San Diego Lifeguard Captain Maureen Hodges who will provide a presentation on the proposed project and answer any questions the Board may have.

Wendy Robinson introduced herself as the Executive Director of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation. The foundation was formed in 2005 in the wake of the Cedar Fire to provide enhanced resources to the San Diego Fire Rescue Department. In addition, extensive support for programs such as the Girls Empowerment Camp, Women's Fire Club Academy, the Fire Cadet Program. They support fire prevention with open houses, educational outreach and recruiting programs. They help training programs at high schools and community colleges.

They believe the better prepared their first responders are, the better protected San Diegans will be. Wendy introduced Maureen Hodges.

Maureen Hodges helps with the City of San Diego's Lifeguard Division which includes dive rescue, cliff rescue and river rescue. The team started in 1978 when major flooding in the region did not have a river rescue team. That team has grown to 25 highly trained lifeguards. State Fire Marshal requires training, minimum of 40 hours per year in the preseason so they are prepared for the river environment. The team is nationally recognized with hundreds of rescues.

The river season is September 15th through April 15th. The team is outfitted to respond any time of the year. As of this year, they had 31 calls for service, with 20+ victims. 4 different categories describe the rescue conditions. They average 15-40 calls annually. Specialized equipment includes rescue boats, personal protective equipment, dry suits, helmets, personal flotation devices, gloves, booties, a line for rescue, and window punch. Noodle extrication device is effective for rescuing victims. In a dynamic river, lifeguards need to be flexible changing directions and adapting to the river's conditions.

In the most recent rain event more than 11 were rescued. Cars were stuck from flooding. Someone had to enter the water. This is when the dry suits come in handy because they do not know what kind of contaminants are in the water. The main hotspots are mission valley, and Tijuana River Valley. They also respond to Sorrento Valley. In mission valley the river goes to the Pacific Ocean. Most river crossings have low laying spots. Drivers think they can cross, but once they enter, vehicles can float in as little as 6 inches of water.

Different hazards include leaked fuel, opened manholes, household waste, trash, industrial chemicals powerlines, natural gas liquid propane gas. Steep culverts are hard to exit so additional help is needed. Pesticide, fertilizers, oil and other hazards extend exposure. Septic tanks also add concern. After every call, decontamination is required. They are rinsed and scrubbed. The gear is thoroughly cleaned. Vaccinations and treatments are given as required. Their goal is the keep rescuers up and out of the water. Lifeguards have fallen ill especially in the Tijuana River Valley.

Dry suits safeguard workers in the river valleys. The most important part is allowing them to return home. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to present before the Board.

Raul Campillo his constituents in District 7 who may accidently enter flooding waters and thanked the lifeguards for all their work. He mentioned using dry suits for more than 20 years when they only have a 10-year life expectancy is unacceptable.

Dr. Jennifer Campbell thanked Maureen for all her work.

Ben Clay stated the Conservancy worked with the lifeguard services to get ahead of the rains. As developments are established along the river, the Conservancy remains dedicated to provide personal protective equipment for first responders along the river.

Raul Campillo moved for approval of the purchase of 30 dry suits by the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and Dr. Jennifer Campbell seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Andrea Scharffer, Sally Lukenbill, Ray Lennox, Richard Burg, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, Elsa Saxod (10-0-0)

Item 10. San Diego State University's Mission Valley and River Park Interpretive Signage Proposal (ACTION)

Julia Richards The proposed project for interpretation and storytelling will be accomplished in several ways. The proposal will provide signage along the pedestrian and biking trails network, highlighting the cultural, historical and biological resources of the San Diego River area. The proposal includes installation of interpretive signs, boulder etchings, and mileage medallions to educate the public about these valuable resources.

San Diego State University (SDSU) conducted outreach through public workshops and SDSU's Park Advisory Group. Board Member Johnny Elliott attended on the Conservancy's behalf, and we would like to thank him for his service.

The proposed project is Consistent with San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation Supports 4 Conservancy program areas Provides educational opportunities along the San Diego River Trail Supports multiple priorities within the Directed Grant Program. The proposed project is also aligned with other state plans and priorities.

The proposal also provides matching in-kind funding valued at approximately \$59,000 from San Diego State University. Additional information on the proposal is located in the staff report, and if approved, funding would be provided through the Budget Act of 2021. Conservancy staff recommends approval of Resolution 23-02 to San Diego State University for \$150,065.

Julia introduced Paul Jackson, Program Manager for Mission Valley Development, from San Diego State University. He will provide a presentation on the proposed project followed by questions and answers.

Paul Jackson thanked the Board for considering this project. This signage and storytelling identified the challenges being next to the San Diego River. Not being able to expose the public to the River, they came up with ideas to tie the river park to its resources. An aerial view of Mission Valley was shown. The property was purchased in 2020.

The area in Mission Valley is park deficient. It is also surrounded by disadvantaged communities of Grantville. There is about 1 acre per 1,000 residents. Some of the open spaces are not accessible to the public. There is passive and active recreational fields. They have seen beneficial uses of the green spaces onsite and around the San Diego River. They are working on some of the plantings and playground development. As part of a larger project San Diego State University will complete segments 19 and 20 of the San Diego River Trail and other water quality and flood mitigations will bring 100% of the stormwater to be treated before it enters the San Diego River.

SDSU's goals align with the Conservancy's by bringing educational opportunities about the San Diego River. The interpretive signage will enhance the River Park by informing the public of sensitive habitats, the history and importance of the river in Mission Valley. They will celebrate the Kumeyaay people, their culture, history and current information. The recreational opportunities at this location include the San Diego River Trail, basketball courts, riparian space with native vegetation will make the visitors feel included. They will add more than 1,000 trees in Mission Valley along the River Park and other open spaces.

A drawing of Mission Valley with all of the enhancements in and around the river park area was shown. A 2-mile hike and bike trail around the perimeter of the property provides the public an opportunity to exercise. There will also be biology and ethnobiology of the Kumeyaay people incorporated into these mileage medallions at every quart mile of the hike and bike trail. Eleven panels will be located at different locations.

San Diego State University met with the San Diego River Conservancy, the River Park Advisory Group and Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy on what they should include in the interpretive panels. Subjects such as water quality, pollinators, Kumeyaay Games, colors of Mission Valley and farming and agriculture.

An example of one interpretive panel was shown. QR codes on each panel will lead visitors to a website with more information which can be updated periodically, and include multi-lingual messages and educate the public is boulder etchings of plants and animals. The land acknowledgement to the Kumeyaay people will remind the public about the sacredness of the land. educate the public is boulder etchings of plants and animals.

Ben Clay mentioned Old Town San Diego State Historic Park has examples of what these may look like.

Paul Jackson the ask is \$150,000 not including indirect costs of design. Paul thanked the Board for their consideration.

John Elliott thanked Paul and appreciated them taking the time to work with KDLC.

Paul Jackson agreed and stated John's suggestions were taken into consideration.

Elsa Saxod asked if the material will be both in English and Spanish. She would like to see as much Spanish available to the community as possible.

Paul Jackson responded the boulder etchings will be in Kumeyaay, English and Spanish and the interpretive signage will be in English. The QR code will have translated languages.

Dr. Jennifer Campbell asked about the long-term maintenance.

Paul Jackson SDSU will maintain the facilities.

Raul Campillo thanked Paul and SDSU for all their hard work.

Cody Petterson asked about a media effort to promote this work.

Ben Clay mentioned the youth is familiar with technology of QR codes; however, not everyone is acquainted with it.

Richard Burg asked for clarification regarding expected completion in 2023. Is that just for the interpretive signage or the other facilities including trails and playground?

Paul Jackson affirmed all of the project will be completed this year.

John Elliott moved for approval of San Diego State University's Mission Valley and River Park Interpretive Signage Proposal and Elsa Saxod seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Sally Lukenbill, Ray Lennox, Richard Burg, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, John Elliott, Elsa Saxod (10-0-0)

Item 11. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Project (ACTION)

Ben Clay The Conservancy and other state agencies were requested to help administer legislative priorities from the Budget Act of 2022. The budget provided allocations to the San Diego Water Board and to the East County Advanced Water Purification Program Joint Powers Authority. Translation- this funding was already approved and allocated by the State Legislature. Today we are asking for approval for the Conservancy's Executive Officer to enter into grant agreements with each of these entities to pass through the funding from Budget Act of 2022.

Julia Richards The Conservancy volunteered to assist with the administration of legislative priorities from the Budget Act of 2022. The Legislature appropriated \$175,000 to the San Diego River Conservancy for the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board for technical assistance services. The Water Board will use the funding to prepare a binational water quality report with protection measures for transboundary issues in the Tijuana River Basin.

The proposed report will include a scoping level feasibility analysis of 10-15 projects in the U.S. and Mexico to address sediment, trash and water quality problems that are not already addressed by ongoing state and federal efforts in both countries. Minute 320 of the 1944 Treaty regarding utilization of the Tijuana River, the Colorado

River and the Rio Grande, which identifies a binational framework to address these problems in the Tijuana River Basin.

The report will be subject to approval under Minute 320 by the Commissioners of the U.S. and Mexico sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission. Approval of Resolution 23-03 authorizes spending the funds as set forth by the Legislature to the Water Board and authorizes the Conservancy's Executive Officer to sign all necessary documents needed for completion of the project.

Julia introduced Jeremy Haas, Environmental Program Manager, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. He will provide an overview on the project and answers questions.

Jeremey Haas thanked the Board for this opportunity. The Waterboard will move projects regarding source control forward. The International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) and workgroups were established to address challenges of border water. There is a US and Mexico side. In 2015, there was a minute to that treaty that established the binational core intending it to be an inclusive process. They provide recommendations and challenges feedback to the commissioners on these types of projects.

Each country and environmental agencies would be stakeholders establishing priorities for the valley, sediment trash and water quality each with its own work group. Eventually they joined as one IBWC. Potential projects and solutions were proposed. Different projects

Originally led by the County of San Diego, projects were on the US side of the Valley. This proposal will expand that effort. This money won't fund projects, it is for a consultant to develop a feasibility report. Previously they met in person. With Zoom, meetings are more efficient. Experts to facilitate this will advance top projects and proposals.

Cody Petterson asked about in-kind services and how the Conservancy funds will be spent.

Julia Richards clarified how the funds will be spent. These funds were approved by the legislature as a priority. The Conservancy will administer the grant by filing the paperwork, reimbursables, and paying a contractor. This information will be compiled in a report so stakeholders can apply for funding.

Dr. Jennifer Campbell requested the Waterboard report back to the Conservancy on the statis of the report.

Cody Petterson moved for approval of San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's Technical Assistance funding and Dr. Jennifer Campbell seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Sally Lukenbill, Ray Lennox, Richard Burg, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, John Elliott, Elsa Saxod (10-0-0)

Item 12. East County Advanced Water Purification Program (ACTION)

Julia Richards The Legislature appropriated \$2 million to the San Diego River Conservancy for the East County Advanced Water Purification Program Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to assist in the construction of facilities needed to implement this Water Purification Program in the County of San Diego. The Program is a regional sustainable drinking water supply for East County residents while enhancing and diversifying the entire San Diego region's water network.

The program is seeking funding to help pay for the 11-mile pipeline that will transport the purified water from the treatment facility in Santee to Lake Jennings in Lakeside. Approval of Resolution 23-04 authorizes spending the

funds as set forth by the Legislature to the JPA and authorizes the Conservancy's Executive Officer to sign all necessary documents needed for completion of the project.

Julia introduced Melissa McChesney, Communications Manager for the East County Advanced Water Purification Project who will provide a presentation on this matter.

Melissa McChesney thanked the board for this funding opportunity and to provide a brief update on the East County Advanced Water Purification Project (AWP). Significance changes have occurred since last time she presented, in fact they are in the construction phase. Partners include the County of San Diego, the City of El Cajon, Helix Water District and a portion of the project within the City of San Diego.

A map showed the project service area. It will reach between 400-500,000 residents throughout the San Diego region providing a local water supply for the first time in some parts of east county. This project will eliminate 15 million gallons of waste water that is currently going out to the Point Loma Waste Water Treatment Plant. Instead that water will be sent to new water recycling facilities. Then that water will be distributed to lake Jennings. It will produce 11.5 million gallons of water per day or 30% of the service population's drinking water supply.

The AWP will cross the San Diego River on Channel Road in Lakeside. The pipeline will be attached to the bridge without interacting with the river in this particular case. Another section of the river will be crossed in Santee between Carlton Oaks Drive and Mission Gorge Road. This pipeline will be installed using underground horizontal directional drilling (HDD) trenchless construction. Another item includes a new pump station to be installed to get the purified water up to lake Jennings. The Flume Trail Old Pump Station will remain in place and a new one will be installed to the west.

After 6 months in Lake Jennings, water will be sent to the RM Levy Water Treatment Facility owned by Helix Water District. Afterwards, this water will be distributed to the residents within the service area. This project creates a local sustainable drought-proof water supply. Reduces dependency on imported water and increased water resiliency. Starting in 2014 groundbreaking for a demonstration facility kicked off. In 2015 the demonstration plant opened.

The project was approved to move forward in 2017. CEQA was completed in 2018. In 2019 the JPA was formed. In 2022 \$90 million was secured from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In 2020 and 2021 \$388 million from the WIFIA Program and \$378 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund was obtained. As well a \$5 million grant from Prop 1. Ground breaking for the full-scale project began in 2022. This is a progressive design project. Final water production is estimated at 2026. Melissa asked the Board for questions.

Cody Petterson asked if the JPA has a project labor agreement.

Melissa McChesney responded, no.

Elsa Saxod stated this project is important for the water profile. This community will be in great shape. She congratulated them for their work.

Gary Strawn this project reduces the potential for waste water spill. 15 million gallons is how much less water will be processed at the Point Loma Water Treatment Facility.

Elsa Saxod moved for approval of East County's Advanced Water Purification funding and Ben Clay seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Andrea Scharffer, Sally Lukenbill, Ray Lennox, Richard Burg, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, Elsa Saxod (10-0-0)

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

Julia Richards Thank you for attending the San Diego River Conservancy's Board Meeting today. It was great to see everyone in person again. There are a few updates she shared before wrapping up this meeting:

The Board materials for today contains the final Legislative Report for 2021-2022. After approval was received, it was filed on January 20 with the appropriate agencies. Also included in the Board materials is the Conservancy's 2023 Work Plan, which outlines ongoing and new projects for this year. She updated the Board Members on staff activities for the past few months:

On November 15, 2022, she was invited to the groundbreaking event at Cha'chaany Hamuk (Cha-Channay HAmuk) Trailhead (formerly 3 Sisters Trailhead) located in the Cleveland National Forest. CNF in partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF), are working to improve public access to Eagle Peak. The Conservancy awarded a grant to CNF to help fund improvements for this trailhead loop and staging area, including a new helicopter landing pad, and underground water tanks for wildland fire suppression.

On December 8th, Conservancy staff met with Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians for an introductory meeting with leadership and their fire chief. the Conservancy shared information on grant opportunities and received a brief tour of the reservation.

On January 24, Conservancy staff was invited to attend a meeting at the Descanso Ranger District with the USFS National Partnership Office Leadership team. This opportunity brought together US Forest Service staff from all over the United States. The San Diego River Conservancy was selected to highlight its partnership with the Cleveland National Forest.

It was a great opportunity to learn more about National Partnership Office in Washington DC, meet with leadership, and see on-the-ground progress of wildfire and forest resiliency projects funded by the Conservancy.

On February 2nd, Dustin and Julia attended a Regional Meeting of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. The meeting provided an update for projects being implemented in southern California -- and focused on the challenges of protecting forests and communities from the increased threat of wildfires.

Thank you for your attendance today.

Item 14. Next Meeting (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Item 15. Adjournment

Ben Clay adjourned the meeting at 3:51 pm

Meeting of May 11, 2023

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.

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM:4SUBJECT: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.

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM:

SUBJECT: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

5

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY (INFORMATIONAL)

7

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM:

SUBJECT: INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT REMOVAL, RETREATMENT AND REVEGETATION IN ALVARADO CREEK – PHASE 7 (ACTION)

The proposed project will restore two sections of Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River, on land owned by San Diego State University (SDSU) and the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans). The San Diego State University Research Foundation, in partnership with SDSU's Soil Ecology and Restoration Group, will remove approximately 13.8 acres of invasive non-native vegetation along the creek and will restore 5 acres with native riparian vegetation which will improve ecosystem functions, provide habitat for native plants and animals, and reduce the risk of fire. This project also includes continuing a study to report on the impacts of creek restoration water quality and on eco-hydraulic dynamics in the San Diego River. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,978,182.00 from the Budget Act of 2021.

Presentation:

Julie Lambert, Program Director, Soil Ecology and Restoration Group, San Diego State University

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-05

Resolution No: 23-05

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$1,978,182 FROM THE BUDGET ACT OF 2021 TO SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION TO REMOVE INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS AND REVEGETATE ALONG ALVARADO CREEK

WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by conserving and restoring the lands and waters of the San Diego River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under the Budget Act of 2021 to fund climate resilience, natural and cultural resource protection, wildfire, and community access projects; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures and guidelines in accordance with statewide priorities and plans; and

WHEREAS, San Diego State University Research Foundation applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for a grant to remove approximately 13.8 acres of invasive non-native vegetation and use native plants to revegetate 5 acres along Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River (Project); and

WHEREAS, San Diego River Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,978,182 to implement the Project; and

WHEREAS, this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, 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.

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy staff have reviewed the grant application, conducted a site visit 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 the Budget Act of 2021.
- 2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the 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 \$1,978,182 (One Million Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars) for the Project.
- 4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, subcontracts, 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 on May 11, 2023. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 23-05 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: Katherine Toy			
DOF: Sally Lukenbill			
CADFW: Richard Burg			
Dr. Jennifer Campbell, SD Mayor			
Designee			
Joel Anderson, County Supervisor			
Raul Campillo			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
J. Cody Petterson			
John Elliott			
Elsa Saxod			
DPR Designee, Ray Lennox			
DPR Designee, Gina Moran			
Dustin Trotter			
Phil Ortiz			

Staff Recommendation SDRC Resolution 23-05 May 11, 2023

DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$1,978,182.00 to San Diego State University Research Foundation (SDSURF) to remove invasive non-native plants, re-vegetate with native plants, enhance streamflow and continue the study of Alvarado Creek to monitor and report on the impacts of creek restoration and water quality in the San Diego River watershed.

LOCATION: This project will restore land along Alvarado Creek owned by San Diego State University (SDSU), Smoke Tree Homeowners Association (HOA) property, and California Department of Transportation's (CalTrans) right-of-way north of Interstate 8, adjacent to Adobe Falls.

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 projects focused on providing public access to open space and trails, enhancing river parkways, protecting resources, restoring native vegetation and supporting education and outreach opportunities, specifically as follows:

To San Diego State University Research Foundation, the sum of \$1,978,182.00 (One Million Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand, One Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars) to use as follows:

• To remove and control invasive non-native plants throughout 13.8 acres, re-vegetate 5 acres with native plants and monitor water quality along Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River (Project).

Before 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 Guidelines for the Conservancy's Directed Grant program.
- 3. The proposed Project is consistent with the Budget Act of 2021.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed Project is a continuation of San Diego State University Research Foundation's (SDSURF) Soil Ecology and Restoration Group (SERG) – Phase 7 to restore Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. Beginning in 2015, and funded under grant agreements with the San Diego River Conservancy, approximately nine acres of native habitat was restored. This included removal of invasive non-native plants and hundreds of palm trees. This area of Alvarado Creek has been the site of a brushfire and contains several landowners: SDSU, CalTrans, the Smoke Tree Home Owners Association (HOA), and the City of San Diego.

PROJECT NEED:

The purpose of this restoration effort is to remove invasive non-native plants, restore native riparian vegetation and ecosystem functions, provide habitat for native plants and animals, and reduce the risk of fire. Increasing native habitat allows for foraging and nesting areas in this urban environment adjacent to Highway 8 and residential neighborhoods. Based on informal surveys of wildlife tracking, a variety of threatened and endangered species including the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) have potential to occur on site. This project will restore and enhance native riparian habitats and coastal sage scrub areas.

This proposed Project greatly reduces wildfire risks by removing palm trees and other highly flammable invasive vegetation. There are estimated to be over 120 palms trees in the project site. Unmaintained palm trees and their fronds pose as a great risk of fire because they contain a large source of fuel that when ignited can spread the fire to nearby community residences. Burning palm trees can send embers hundreds of yards and ignite surrounding nearby neighborhoods and adjacent government property. Palm trees cluster within streams, redirect stormwater and destabilize the stream banks, so removal of palm trees would allow for a more natural flow.

The Adobe Falls area north of Highway 8 has had many fires in the past.

For example, on Sunday, June 4, 2018 two 12-year-olds with a lighter started the fire that charred 38 acres north of San Diego State University, prompting dozens of evacuations and an hours-long freeway closure, a fire official said Monday. See photos and map below. One of the crews reported dumping 500 gallons of water on a "smoldering, stubborn" palm tree stump, and another crew reported seeing glowing embers near two homes. The fire started behind an Adobe Falls Road apartment complex, north of Interstate 8. The flames spread quickly, and about 80 homes were evacuated between College Avenue and Waring Road. About 150 firefighters, with help from helicopters, beat back the blaze. Although the flames burned within feet of some residences, no homes were damaged. (https://www.10news.com/news/investigators-say-brush-fire-near-

san-diego-state-set-by-kids)



PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed Project's main goal is to remove and control invasive non-native vegetation on approximately 13.8 acres which include Phase 1-3 and 5-6. Phase 7 makes up 4.9 acres, of which 1.2 acres of riparian habitat along Alvarado Creek on SDSU property and 3.7 acres in the CalTrans right-of-way are included in the proposed Project areas. Also included in the Project is continuation of a study based on data collection and monitoring of Alvarado Creek by SDSU professors and students to better understand and report on the impacts of habitat restoration, water quality and biological objectives for a healthy riparian ecosystem.



Map 1. Proposed Project Areas

The proposed Project includes the following tasks:

- Removal of invasive palm trees and biomass. Complete restoration along approximately 1,263 linear feet in the section of Alvarado Creek Phases 2-3 located on SDSU property on the east side of college and south of Interstate 8. Another 1,827 linear feet on the north side of Interstate 8 as well as in the Phase 6 (Smoke Tree HOA area).
- 2. Undertaken water study to assess current water quality and hydro-geomorphology spread out across three sampling locations of the project site from upstream to downstream.
- 3. Conduct monthly in-situ water quality monitoring (pH, conductivity, and temperature) as well as duplicate grab sampling for water quality chemical and biological parameters. SERG will conduct monthly sampling and analyses of nitrate, ammonium, and phosphate as well as basic dry weather water quality monitoring.
- 4. Assess hydro-geomorphology with existing atmospheric pressure transducer and tipping bucket for precipitation at the SERG greenhouse during varying streamflow

conditions. The water quality sonde includes sensors for tryptophan-like (TRP) and humic-like (CDOM) fluorescent organic matter from which data will be available online via telemetry.

The proposed water studies, data collection and biological assessments will provide supporting evidence of multi-benefits. Applicant will focus on quantifying water availability pre- and post-revegetation and evaluating improvements and changes to water quality of Alvarado Creek due to restoration.

Mobilizing Equipment and Personnel to the Project Site

Logistics to access the Caltrans parcel will be laborious, but can be done (1) through the tunnel under Interstate 8 from a parking lot at the university, (2) from the area owned by SDSU along Mill Peak Road running along the north rim of Alvarado Canyon which is very steep or (3) by the roundabout located just west of the Adobe Falls Road cul-de-sac in the Del Cerro neighborhood and by crossing Alvarado Creek.





Photos: Tunnel

Mill Peak Road

Adobe Falls

DELIVERABLES:

- Quarterly invoices, request for disbursements and progress reports
- Final Project Report
- Quantification of vegetation cover pre- and post-restoration along pre-established transects with a goal of reducing non-native perennial cover to 10% or less
- Name and amount of herbicide used and weight of trash removed from the site
- Assessment of hydrology, geomorphology, stream nutrient and organic carbon concentrations and loadings before and after re-vegetation
- Early warning system of fecal contamination of Alvarado Creek
- CRAM report include data for before and after re-vegetation

Task #	Description	Amount	Schedule
1	Biomass/Tree removal	\$1,492,455.00	Throughout the grant
	(\$252,360)		term
	Retreatment & revegetation		
	(\$1,240,095)		
2	Water Quality testing and	\$214,700.20	
	study & Hydro-		
	geomorphology		
3	Historical Resources	\$13,003.00	
	Compliance Survey and		
	Report (CalTrans)		
4	Indirect Rate	\$258,023.80	
	TOTAL	\$1,978,182.00	

Table 1. Estimated Budget and Anticipated Schedule

PROJECT FINANCING: The total Project amount is \$1,978,182.51; the Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,978,182.00 for the implementation of the project. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this Project is the Budget Act of 2021.

LEVERAGED FUNDING

SDSURF is reducing its F&A from 50% to 15% and the foregone F&A is estimated to be \$602,055.55. Additionally, SDSU funds will be used to pay the salary for the postdoctoral research fellow for this project. The amount of unbilled labor is estimated to be \$100,000.

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 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 from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE FUNDING SOURCE: Budget Act of 2021 is for wildfire and climate resilience, watershed protection, natural and cultural resource protection, and community access projects. The funding is immediately available for shovel-ready projects.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE CONSERVANCY'S DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAM:

This Project achieves one or more of the purposes:

- Located in the San Diego River watershed
- Reducing flood and fire risk
- Improving water quality

- Benefits disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, or underserved communities
- Protecting the natural and scenic beauty of the San Diego River watershed

ALIGNMENT WITH PLANS AND PRIORITIES

A. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment

Supports local adaptation strategy and resilience, and protection of the state's most vulnerable populations and communities.

B. State Wildlife Action Plan

Enhance ecosystem functions and processes as well as maintain and improve ecosystem functions and processes vital for sustaining ecosystems in California.

C. California Water Action Plan

Provide safe water for all communities and Increase flood protection

D. California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan

Multi-benefit riparian restoration projects can reduce flood risk and increase water supply while providing critical ecosystem services.

E. California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

Supports activities such as fuels reduction, forest thinning, vegetation management, prescribed fire, shaded fuel breaks, defensible space, and enhancement of fire- prone habitats to reduce fire risk

F. Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin

Beneficial uses for the San Diego River include wildlife habitat and rare and endangered species.

G. San Diego River Conservancy's Climate Change Policy

- 1) Conservation, restoration and enhancement of habitats that sequester carbon, including forests, tidal wetlands, and estuarine scrub/shrub habitats;
- Management of invasive species, especially projects which prevent introduction or spread of invasive species, in order to reduce the impacts of this major stressor on biodiversity;
- Riparian protection, enhancement, and restoration projects that allow for wider riparian corridors to accommodate increased flooding, or provide other benefits such as increased shading to moderate water temperature increases.

BENEFITS

Undergraduate and graduate students have been involved in the program and have produced research publications regarding riparian restoration and impacts on flooding, water pollution and biological integrity of an urban stream ecosystem. By removing nonnative plant species with a focus on palm trees and giant reed, flood capacity and water conveyance will be improved and native habitat restored. Additionally, removing anthropogenic debris improves the scenic area by allowing the riparian habitat to naturally restore the floodplain thereby mitigating the hydrologic changes resulting from post-fire processes on the project site.

Various research publications have resulted from this restoration project:

- Upland and riparian surface soil processes in an urban creek with native and nonnative vegetation after fire. Kinoshita, A. et al. (2022) https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/5/2/32/htm
- Groundwater-surface water interactions and flux of organic matter and nutrients in an urban Mediterranean stream. Mladenov, N. et al. (2021) <u>https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34914998/</u>
- A case study of soil moisture and infiltration after an urban fire. Alkin, Q. and Kinoshita, A. (2020) https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/3/2/22

PROJECT READINESS

The initial non-native removal effort will be conducted by ACS Habitat Management if funding is awarded; however, this work can only be conducted outside of the bird breeding season, September 15 through February 15.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE

SDSURF-SERG will be using the San Diego River Conservancy's suite of invasive plant removal permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Additionally, CalTrans requires the project to submit a Historical Resources Compliance Report, which will be subcontracted to Rincon Consultants, Inc., who has experience with this process. To complete the Compliance Report, Rincon will conduct a records search, sacred lands file and record search, field surveys, and file an updated record of report with the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

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Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM:

SUBJECT: INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT REMOVAL AND CONTROL IN LOS COCHES CREEK AND OTHER TRIBUTARIES TO THE SAN DIEGO RIVER (ACTION) Lakeside's River Park Conservancy will control invasive non-native plant species by removing biomass from streams and creeks that discharge to the San Diego River. The proposed project plans to control 176 acres of invasive non-native vegetation along sections of Los Coches Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. Within the total acres 36 acres of biomass are targeted for removal and 140 acres will be retreatment. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,917,980 from the Budget Act of 2021.

> Presentation: Julie Turko, Executive Director, Lakeside River Park Conservancy

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-06

Resolution No: 23-06

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$1,917,980 FROM THE BUDGET ACT OF 2021 TO LAKESIDE'S RIVER PARK CONSERVANCY TO REMOVE AND CONTROL INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS AND REVEGETATE ALONG LOS COCHES CREEK AND OTHER TRIBUTARIES TO THE SAN DIEGO RIVER

WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by conserving and restoring the lands and waters of the San Diego River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under the Budget Act of 2021 to fund climate resilience, natural and cultural resource protection, wildfire, and community access projects; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures and guidelines in accordance with statewide priorities and plans; and

WHEREAS, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for a grant to remove 36 acres of invasive non-native vegetation and control approximately 140 acres along Los Coches Creek and other tributaries to the San Diego River (Project); and

WHEREAS, San Diego River Conservancy staff is recommending \$1,917,980 to implement the Project; and

WHEREAS, this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, 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.

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy staff have reviewed the grant application, met with 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 the Budget Act of 2021.
- 2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the 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 \$1,917,980 (One Million Nine Hundred Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Dollars) for the Project.
- 4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, subcontracts, 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 on May 11, 2023. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 23-06 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: Katherine Toy			
DOF: Sally Lukenbill			
CADFW: Richard Burg			
Dr. Jennifer Campbell, SD Mayor			
Designee			
Joel Anderson, County Supervisor			
Raul Campillo			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
J. Cody Petterson			
John Elliott			
Elsa Saxod			
DPR Designee, Ray Lennox			
DPR Designee, Gina Moran			
Dustin Trotter			
Phil Ortiz			

Staff Recommendation SDRC Resolution 23-06 May 11, 2023

DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$1,917,980 to Lakeside's River Park Conservancy to remove and control invasive non-native trees and vegetation along the riparian habitat in Los Coches Creek, and other tributaries to the San Diego River in Lakeside, California.

LOCATION: Los Coches Creek is a highly degraded urban stream and tributary that flows through natural and developed portions of the unincorporated community of Lakeside, before converging with the San Diego River at the intersection of Wintergardens Boulevard and State Route 67 in 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 of funding for projects focused on providing public access to open space and trails, enhancing river parkways, protecting resources, ecosystem restoration and supporting education and outreach opportunities, specifically as follows:

To Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, the sum of \$1,917,980.00 (One Million Nine Hundred Seventeen Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty Dollars) is as follows:

• To remove and control invasive non-native plants on 176 acres in the community of Lakeside (Project).

Before 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 Guidelines for the Conservancy's Directed Grant program.

3. The proposed Project is consistent with the Budget Act of 2021.

BACKGROUND:

In 2012, with funding provided by the San Diego River Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy (LRPC) began a large invasive non-native vegetation removal project focusing on giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and other invasive plants from Los Coches Creek. The proposed Project will obtain or renew 300 property owners' right-of-entry (ROE) agreements to allow for the removal and control of invasive plant species in riparian areas. Although the past project was completed in 2019, for the proposed Project LRPC will return to previously treated locations, update the ROE agreements and provide an assessment to set up a schedule for re-treatment and invasive plant removal.

The Project site includes 176 acres along 9.5-miles of Los Coches Creek which is the discharge point into the San Diego River. Additional private or public parcels adjacent to existing treatment areas along the creek and San Diego River will be controlled as well.



Map 1. Invasive Plants and Right of Entry Status in Lakeside, California.

PROJECT NEED:

Invasive non-native plant (invasive plants) infestations alter ecosystem dynamics and interrupt watershed processes. The removal of invasive plants from the San Diego River watershed offers numerous direct and indirect benefits such as reduction of flooding and fire risk, improved water quality, increased water conservation and habitat restoration to increase biodiversity for native and listed plant and animal species. Los Coches Creek's

infestation of invasive plants has changed streambed hydrology and increased the risk of flooding. These infestations exacerbate fire risk, and diminish biodiversity along wildlife corridors. In addition, grasses such as *Arundo* increase wildfire risk by forming dense monotypic stands that grow rapidly near a source of water flowing through residential neighborhoods. Further, palm trees and their fronds pose a risk of fire because they contain a source of fuel that when ignited can spread to nearby community residences. Burning palm trees can send embers hundreds of yards and ignite surrounding nearby neighborhoods and adjacent government property.

Invasive plant species are detrimental to native riparian habitat by altering stream flow and putting life and property at risk. In particular, *Arundo donax* can break off during high water events and float downstream to cause damming. This is in contrast with native species such as willows which have roots that stabilize banks and prevent head-cutting. In addition, *Arundo* is resilient to brush fires, consumes large quantities of water and crowds out native species, making the habitat undesirable for local wildlife.

The community of Lakeside in San Diego County's unincorporated area is in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) transition zone between unoccupied land, open space and human development. California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, January 2021 specifically states, "To address the long-term trend of more people living in the WUI, it is critical to increase vulnerable communities' resilience to

uncontrolled wildfires. Developments in the WUI increase the number of ignitions, the likelihood that wildfires become urban conflagrations, putting many homes and structures at risk of being damaged or destroyed by a wildfire, and constrain fuelmanagement activities."

The CalFIRE Map to the right shows Lakeside is immediately adjacent to the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and in the WUI on the edge of the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) in east county San Diego. This map is based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors present, including areas where winds have been identified by the department as a major cause of wildfire spread. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard



Severity Zones, classify a wildland zone as Moderate, High, or Very High fire hazard based on the average hazard across the area included in the zone.

This area has a long history of catastrophic wildfires including the 1950 Conejos Fire, the 1970 Boulder Fire which merged to become the Laguna Fire, the 2003 Cedar Fire where much of the valley burned and then again fire reached the El Monte Valley with the Witch Fire in 2007.

FIRES	Cedar	Witch	Laguna	Conejos
Acres	273,246	197,990	175,425	64,000
Date	October 2003	October 2007	September 1970	August 1950
Deaths	15	2	8	unknown
Structures	2,820	1,650	382	unknown

Table 1. San Diego County Catastrophic Wildfires

Map 2. The San Diego River Watershed and Major Catastrophic Wildfire History



The proposed Project will take place in Lakeside includes disadvantaged and low-income communities. The definition of "Disadvantaged Community" refers to the areas throughout California which most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens from decades of underfunding and neglect according to Senate Bill 535 (De León, [2012]).

TARGETED INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS

The common names of the targeted plant species include Acacia, tree of heaven, giant reed, Himalayan blackberry, pampas grass, carrot wood, Russian olive, fennel, palms, castor bean, pepper tree, salt cedar, tree tobacco, and others.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed Project will take place over two years treating invasive species within 176 acres in four drainage areas as follows: Los Coches Creek, Oak Creek, San Vicente Creek and the San Diego River. Within the total acres identified, 140 acres will be retreated and an additional 36 acres of biomass are targeted for removal and follow up treatments.

LRPC will control invasive non-native plant species by removing biomass from streams and creeks that discharge to the San Diego River. The priority will be to remove large and highly invasive plant species that colonize the creek and increase the risk of fire or flood for the local community. Large palms found in project sites will be removed by subcontractors.

LRPC will use a database to track each parcel, its APN, landowner information, associated Right-of-Entry (ROE) where removal occurs, type of treatment conducted and pre and post photo documentation. All of the sites that require retreatment will be visited and treated quarterly, as needed or requested by the San Diego River Conservancy. The additional 36 acres of land will be targeted to remove invasive non-native plants and LRPC will be responsible for the on-going maintenance.

Project tasks include:

1. Obtain new or update existing ROEs

- a. Contact all ROE landowners.
- b. Use a database to track status of ROEs.

2. Invasive Vegetation Removal

Remove targeted plant species

- a. Remove invasive plant biomass and treat or re-treat with herbicide.
- b. Use contactor for palms that are too large to be removed by LRPC staff.
- c. For small to medium size palms, LPRC will use the drill and kill method.

3. Re-treatment of Invasive Vegetation

- a. Survey sites and identify re-treatment locations.
- b. Keep a current database detailing species and treatment methods.

4. Restoration

- a. Encourage native recruitment.
- b. Install native plantings as the site requires, or as requested by the San Diego River Conservancy.

BENEFITS

Communities bordering Los Coches Creek will benefit from improved water quality and enhanced natural scenic beauty of the San Diego River and its tributaries. Although Los Coches Creek is highly urbanized with flashy flows, it still functions as a biological and wildlife corridor and biodiversity exists in these drainage areas. Flashy streams are common in urbanized areas because stormwater runoff reaches the waterways much more quickly than it would under natural conditions. Based on informal surveys of wildlife tracking, a variety of threatened and endangered species including the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) have potential to occur on site. This project will restore and enhance native riparian habitats and coastal sage scrub areas.

DELIVERABLES

- 1. Master spreadsheet listing all ROEs obtained including owner's name, address, contact information and term of ROE.
- 2. Provide a copy of each ROE agreement for each parcel treated.
- 3. Progress Report will accompany each invoice and request for disbursement with list of assessor parcel numbers (APNs) monitored and treated.
- 4. Annual submission of treated acres, meaning total acreage treated last year plus planned treatment for next year, pursuant to the San Diego River Conservancy's watershed wide permits as required by annual regulatory reporting.
- 5. Pre- and post- photo monitoring of all sites to be included in the Final Report.
- 6. Drone footage pre and post project implementation.

Task #	Description	Amount	Schedule
1	Administration and management	\$479,495.00	Throughout the
2	Implementation	\$1,438,485.00	grant term
TOTAL		\$1,917,980.00	

Table 1. Estimated Budget and Anticipated Schedule

PROJECT FINANCING: The total amount requested is \$1,999,478 including contingency. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,917,980 to implement the Project. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this Project is the Budget Act of 2021.

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 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 by strengthening current partnerships and develop additional partnerships, from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE FUNDING SOURCE: Budget Act of

2021 is for wildfire and climate resilience, watershed protection, natural and cultural resource protection, and community access projects. The funding is immediately available for shovel-ready projects.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE CONSERVANCY'S DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAM:

This Project is within the San Diego River Watershed, proposes to restore 176 acres of disturbed urbanized creek with altered hydrology, and remove flammable fuel loads to reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfires.

ALIGNMENT WITH STATE PLANS AND PRIORITIES

A. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Supports local adaptation strategy and resilience, and protection of the state's most vulnerable populations and communities.

B. California Water Action Plan

Protect and restore important ecosystems.

- C. Safeguarding California California's Climate Adaption Strategy Strengthen the climate adaptation component of conservation planning efforts at multiple scales.
- D. California's 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan

Land protection, restoration, and management activities.

E. California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

Supports activities such as fuels reduction, forest thinning, vegetation management, prescribed fire, shaded fuel breaks, defensible space, and enhancement of fire prone habitats to reduce fire risk.

F. Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin Beneficial uses for the San Diego River include wildlife habitat and rare and endangered species.

G. San Diego River Conservancy's Climate Change Policy

i. Conservation, restoration and enhancement of habitats that sequester carbon, including forests, tidal wetlands, and estuarine scrub/shrub habitats;

- ii. Management of invasive species, especially projects which prevent introduction or spread of invasive species, in order to reduce the impacts of this major stressor on biodiversity;
- iii. Riparian protection, enhancement, and restoration projects that allow for wider riparian corridors to accommodate increased flooding, or provide other benefits such as increased shading to moderate water temperature increases.

LEVERAGED FUNDING

None.

PROJECT READINESS

If approved, Project activities will begin upon grant approval. Missing ROE agreements will be pursued and invasive non-native vegetation removal will comply with existing permits.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE

LRPC will be using the San Diego River Conservancy's suite of invasive plant removal permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). All invasive plant control activities will be conducted according to the permit terms.

9

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM:

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN EL CAJON (ACTION)

The City of El Cajon has proposed a project to enhance the water quality in Forester Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. The project will install 70 full trash capture devices at concrete curb inlet locations. The storm drain filters will remove all trash and debris from the water before it flows into the creek. The City of El Cajon is committed to operating and maintaining these filters to ensure they function effectively. The project will benefit the area's low-income, disadvantaged, and severely disadvantaged communities. The Conservancy staff recommends a budget of \$1,000,000 for the project, and the funding will be provided by the Budget Act of 2022 if approved.

Presentation:

Mario Sanchez, Deputy Director of Public Works / City Engineer, City of El Cajon Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-07

Resolution No: 23-07

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$1,000,000 FROM THE BUDGET ACT OF 2022 TO THE CITY OF EL CAJON TO INSTALL 70 FULL CAPTURE DEVICES TO PREVENT TRASH FROM ENTERING THE SAN DIEGO RIVER

WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by conserving and restoring the lands and waters of the San Diego River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under the Budget Act of 2022 to fund climate resilience, natural and cultural resource protection, wildfire, and community access projects; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures and guidelines in accordance with statewide priorities and plans; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Cajon applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for funding to install full capture devices to prevent trash from entering storm drains and to improve water quality along Forester Creek (Project), a tributary to the San Diego River; and

WHEREAS, San Diego River Conservancy staff is recommending \$1,000,000 to implement the Project and install 70 full capture devices in the City of El Cajon's disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged areas; and

WHEREAS, this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, and Program 5 Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance.

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy staff have reviewed the grant application, met with 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 the Budget Act of 2022.
- 2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the 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 (One Million Dollars) 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 including selection of 70 inlet locations, budget, and schedule.

Approved and adopted on May 11, 2023. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 23-07 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: Katherine Toy			
DOF: Sally Lukenbill			
CADFW: Richard Burg			
Dr. Jennifer Campbell, SD Mayor			
Designee			
Joel Anderson, County Supervisor			
Raul Campillo			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
J. Cody Petterson			
John Elliott			
Elsa Saxod			
DPR Designee, Ray Lennox			
DPR Designee, Gina Moran			
Phil Ortiz			
Dustin Trotter			

Staff Recommendation SDRC Resolution 23-07 May 11, 2023

DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$1,000,000.00 to the City of El Cajon to improve water quality through installation of 70 full capture trash devices at concrete curb inlets along Forester Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River.

LOCATION: The full capture trash devices will be installed mostly in disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged areas of the City of El Cajon in the San Diego River watershed, 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 of funding for projects focused on providing public access to open space and trails, enhancing river parkways, protecting resources, and supporting education and outreach opportunities, specifically as follows:

To the City of El Cajon, the sum of \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) is as follows:

• To install approximately 70 full capture trash devices within the City of El Cajon (Project).

Before 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 identifying the 70 locations selected, a 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 Conservancy's Directed Grant program.
- 3. The proposed Project is consistent with the Budget Act of 2022.

BACKGROUND:

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) issues the Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit to 39 municipal, county and special district entities in San Diego, south Orange and Southwestern Riverside Counties (known as Copermittees). This permit regulates what is allowed to leave storm drain systems and enter local waterways. The Municipal Storm Water Program regulates stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems throughout California. Pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) section 402(p), stormwater permits are required for discharges from an MS4 serving a population of 100,000 or more which applies to the City of El Cajon.

The City of El Cajon's proposed Project will design and install full capture trash devices at 70 locations, in disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, as defined by the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Community Fact Finder.



The City of El Cajon - Potential Locations of Full Capture Trash Devices

Map 1. El Cajon's Identification of Sites for Device Installation

PROJECT NEED:

Trash in local streams, creeks, lined-channels, and other surface water conveyance systems is an obvious and significant water pollution problem. With help from the San Diego River Park Foundation, more than 1,200 pounds of trash and plastic material were removed from cleanup efforts performed along the Broadway Creek and Forester Creek catchment areas in 2020 and 2021. Non-biodegradable plastic and expanded polystyrene ("Styrofoam"), including bags, bottles, and the fiberglass filters from cigarette butts, comprise most of this trash and are toxic to fish and wildlife.



Since 2015, the City of El Cajon annually supports the Creek to Bay Cleanup as part of the "I Love a Clean San Diego." Volunteers clean up debris and trash from the Forester Creek channel. Recent efforts from the April 2023 event removed over 550 pounds of trash and 90 pounds of recyclable plastics from the Forester Creek channel.

Trash clogs creeks, streams, rivers and sloughs, degrades wetland habitat, creates blight, and deters recreation in creeks and the San Diego River. The installation of structural controls, such as full capture storm drain filters (see photos to the right), will be located at storm drain inlets that receive storm runoff from designated Priority Land Use areas.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND BUDGET: The purpose of the proposed Project is to continue to improve water quality in tributaries within the San Diego River Watershed through adaptative management practices. The Project includes the design and construction of inline trash-capture modules or



devices. This Project will install, operate, and maintain full capture devices at concrete curb inlets to prevent trash from entering the waterway. This will improve water quality in Forester Creek before it flows into the San Diego River. Below are designs of three types of trash capture devices for curb inlets.



The City of El Cajon will maintenance these devices by using the City's vacuum truck to remove trash and debris. The devices are made of stainless steel and concrete components that do not degrade or further contribute to non-biodegradable plastic issues. Installation of the devices effectively bypass components designed to not impede high-flow rain events and devices can be retrofit to address future needs.

The scope of work for the proposed project is as follows:

Task 1. Planning and Permitting

The project team will determine the location of the 70 trash capture devices in close coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain the California Fish and Game Code, Section 1602, Streambed Alteration Agreement; Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification; and Clean Water Act, Section 404, Nationwide Permit.

Task 2. Project Management

The project team will provide technical services as needed for agreement completion. This includes management of contractor schedule, inspection and identification of noncompliant work and scope, and negotiation of changes. The project team will monitor, supervise, and review work performed; as well as documentation of pre-existing conditions, document control, labor compliance, and assurance of environmental compliance with approved procedures, applicable laws, and regulations.

Task 3. Construction and Implementation

Design and installation of up to 70 full capture trash devices at curb inlets throughout the City of El Cajon. Each full capture trash device will be adapted for its specific location.

BENEFITS

The project is anticipated to provide multiple benefits to Forester Creek and the San Diego River watersheds such as restore native habitats, preservation of rare and endangered species, and improved water quality. At a larger scale, adaptation projects to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems will help restore rural and urban watershed health, protect life and property, improve stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction. These proposed improvements advance the San Diego River Conservancy's goals of protecting and restoring the watershed.

Task #	Description	Amount	Schedule
1	Project Management &	\$250,000.00	Quarterly
	Planning		Throughout Grant
2	Construction/Implementation	\$750,000.00	Contract
TOTAL		\$1,000,000.00	

PROJECT FINANCING: The total Project amount requested is \$5,500,000.00; the Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the implementation of Phase 1 of the Project. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds is the Budget Act of 2022.

LEVERAGED FUNDING

The City of El Cajon will provide a local match in the form of in-kind services and from local City Wastewater funds in the amount of \$100,000.00.

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 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.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE FUNDING SOURCE: Budget Act of 2022 is for wildfire and climate resilience, watershed protection, natural and cultural resource protection, and community access projects. The funding is immediately available for shovel-ready projects.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE CONSERVANCY'S DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAM:

This Project achieves one or more of the purposes:

- Reducing flood and fire risk
- Improving water quality
- Benefits disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, or underserved communities

ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER PLANS AND PRIORITIES

A. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment

1) Supports local adaptation strategy and resilience, and protection of the state's most vulnerable populations and communities.

B. San Diego River Conservancy's Climate Change Policy

 Adaptive management and monitoring of ecosystem and physical processes to support implementation of management actions to achieve project objectives under rapidly changing climatic conditions.

C. California Water Action Plan

- 1) Action 4 Protect and restore important ecosystems
- 2) Action 7 Provide safe water for all communities
- 3) Action 8 Increase flood protection

D. San Diego Region Basin Plan

Surface waters which are in systems designed or modified to carry municipal, industrial, agricultural or mining wastewaters, or stormwater runoff.

E. California's Flood Future: Recommendations for Managing the State's Flood Risk

Encourage Land use planning practices that reduce the consequences of flooding.

F. San Diego River Watershed Management Area Water Quality Improvement Plan

Reduce trash and debris to help reduce bacteria loads. Reduce bacterial loads in Forrester Creek.

G. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from the municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems

Numeric Goals identified for the Watershed Management Area Develop project proposals to reduce flooding and improve control in flood prone areas.

H. Floodplain Management Plan (County of San Diego)

Goal 9 Reduce the possibility of damage and losses to existing assets, including people, critical facilities/infrastructure, and public facilities due to floods. Develop project proposals to reduce flooding and improve control in flood prone areas.

I. Sustainability Initiative: Policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (City of El Cajon)

- 1) Strategy 7 Reduce and Recycle Solid Waste
- 2) Strategy 8 Carbon Sequestration

J. City of El Cajon General Plan – Safety Element

Goal 3. Minimize risks, such as loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from natural hazards.

K. City of El Cajon Hazard Mitigation Plan

Goal 5. Reduce the possibility of damage and losses to existing assets, particularly people, critical facilities/infrastructure, and City-owned facilities, due to floods. Continue preventative maintenance and inspection of floodway structures, storm drains, etc. consistent with applicable standards.

DELIVERABLES:

- Before and after photographs.
- Detailed design of the device and proposed improvements
- Installation of 70 Full Capture Trash Devices
- Install funding acknowledgment signage.

PROJECT READINESS

If the project is approved, 70 full capture devices would be installed in high priority areas within the City of El Cajon, completed by June 2024.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE

The project is consistent with the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Order R9-2017-0077. The stormwater regulations require the implementation of measures that prevent pollutants from entering the City's stormwater conveyance system. The project is exempt from environmental review under CEQA Guideline 15301(c) (Class 1) as it is a minor alteration of an existing public infrastructure involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM: 10

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:

- Department of Finance's May Revise (FY 2023-24)
- Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins' 2023 Women Honorees
- Awards for Forest and Fire Resilience Projects
- River Days is May 13-21. It is a project supported by the San Diego River Park Foundation and other partner organizations to connect and enjoy the San Diego River watershed. Link <u>https://sdriverdays.org/</u>

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Julia L. Richards

Women's HERstory Month Honoree 2023 Women of the District

In honor of your contributions to the betterment of the 39th Senate District and beyond. Today we celebrate you, your values, advocacy, and activism. Your positive impact on San Diego, our communities and residents does not go unnoticed. I wish you continued success in all your endeavors as you continue to empower others.

> On behalf of the California State Legislature, on this 13th day of April, 2023.

TONI G. ATKINS SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE 39th District STATE OF CALIFORNIA



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Ruth Hayward

Women's HERstory Month Honoree 2023 Women of the District

In honor of your contributions to the betterment of the 39th Senate District and beyond. Today we celebrate you, your values, advocacy, and activism. Your positive impact on San Diego, our communities and residents does not go unnoticed. I wish you continued success in all your endeavors as you continue to empower others.

> On behalf of the California State Legislature, on this 13th day of April, 2023.

TONI G. ATKINS SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE 39th District



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



SENATOR BRIAN W. JONES

Honors

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

For

PARTNER AWARD

In special recognition of your unyielding dedication to the betterment of our community through your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Fire Safe Councils across San Diego County.

June 10th, 2022



2022 Partner Award

San Diego River Conservancy

In recognition and appreciation of your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Community Fire Safe Councils.





San Diego River Conservancy

2022 Partner Award

In recognition of your exceptional support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Community Fire Safe Councils, preserving our urban and rural communities and ensuring the safety of residents, warranting your selection by the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County to receive the 2022 Partner Award, on this Friday, June 10, 2022.



RANDY VOEPEL Assemblyman, 71st District



PRESENTED TO:

San Diego River Conservancy Partner Award

On behalf of the California State Assembly,

thank you for your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and for all our Community Fire Safe Councils. The 78th Assembly District and the State of California are sincerely grateful for your efforts to keep San Diego County fire safe.



Christopher M. Ward California State Assemblymember, 78th District Awarded on this 10th day of June 2022

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Presented To

San Diego River Conservancy Partner Award

In recognition and appreciation of your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Community Fire Safe Councils. June 10, 2022 Congratulations!



Marie Waldron

Assemblymember Marie Waldron 75th District

ASSEMBLYMEMBER BRIAN MAIENSCHEIN

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Presented To San Diego River Conservancy Partner Award

In recognition and appreciation of your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Community Fire Safe Councils.

15th Annual Fire Safe Council Volunteer Awards

June 10, 2022



ASSEMBLYMEMBE





Presented to

San Diego River Conservancy Partner Award

In recognition and appreciation of your dedicated service to our community. Your support for Community Fire Safe Councils and ground fuels reduction programs greatly benefit our region. On behalf of the California State Assembly, Wishing you continued success!

June 10, 2022



John Bouner Honorth

Tasha Boerner Horvath Assemblymember, District 76 California State Legislature

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



Presented to SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL PARTNER AWARD

In recognition and appreciation of your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Community Fire Safe Councils.

SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON, SECOND DISTRICT

June 10, 2022

DATE

County of San Diego SPECIAL COMMENDATION PRESENTED TO San Diego River Conservancy

- Partner Award -

In recognition and appreciation of your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Community Fire Safe Councils.

This Special Commendation is tendered on behalf of the County of San Diego District 1, as an acknowledgement and recognition of the 15th Annual Fire Safe Council Volunteer Awards held on Friday, June 10th, 2022.



Mon & Vage

Nora E. Vargas

Vice Chair First District Supervisor San Diego County Board of Supervisors June 10th, 2022 **TERRA LAWSON-REMER** San Diego County Supervisor, District 3



Certificate of Recognition

PRESENTED TO SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

PARTNER AWARD

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT FOR ON THE GROUND FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE COUNCILS. WE VALUE THE WORK THAT YOU DO AND SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS. ON BEHALF OF OUR OFFICE, CONGRATULATIONS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS.

TERRA LAWSON-REMER

SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

6/8/22

DATE





COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO

San Diego River Conservancy Partner Award

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the San Diego River Conservancy on receiving the Partner Award. This award is in recognition and appreciation of your support for on the ground fuels reduction programs and Community Fire Safe Councils. I give you our best wishes for your continued leadership and success!

JIM DESMOND SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT June 10, 2022

DATE



The City of San Diego

Proudly Representing the Communities of:

- Carmel Valley
- Del Mar Mesa
- La Jolla
- Pacific Highlands Ranch
- Torrey Hills
- Torrey Pines
- University City

M. M. M. M. M. M.

COUNCILMEMBER JOE LACAVA

Special Commendation

Presented To

San Diego River Conservancy

On behalf of the citizens of the City of San Diego, Council District One, I thank you for your service to our community and congratulate you on being honored by the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County with its Partner Award.

la Con

Joe LaCava Councilmember, First District

June 10, 2022

Date

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held July 13, 2023, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meeting of May 11, 2023

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT