

**Strategic Plan Update (2018-2023)**

This second update to the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011 is a high-level overview for the period 2018-2023. The first update for the period 2012-2017, continued the original four program areas, but split one into two sub-programs and added a fifth program. This update categorizes the two sub-programs as separate programs, resulting in a total of six programs.

This document builds on several documents that incorporate the principles and recommendations of the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan (2002) including, but not limited to:

* San Diego River Conservancy Act (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 32630-32661)
* SDRC Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011 (March 2006)
* SDRC Gaps Analysis 2010
* Strategic and Infrastructure Plan Analysis (September 2011)
* Addendum to the SDRC Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan (Nov. 2011)
* SDRC 2012 Annual Work Plan (March 2012)
* SDRC Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017)
* SDRC 2014 Annual Work Plan (January 2014)
* SDRC 2016 -17 Annual Work Plan (January 2017)
* California State Senate Bill 214 (Atkins 2017)

**Program 1: Conserve Land Within the San Diego River Watershed**

**Identify Key Watershed Properties for Acquisition**

* Explore land acquisition opportunities with other public agencies and/or other partners
	+ Identify potential opportunities
	+ Identify current and potential partners
* Conserve additional acres
	+ Support opportunities as they are created and/or presented to SDRC and/or its partners
	+ Identify partners for conservation easements, as appropriate
	+ Identify type(s) of habitat to target
	+ Outline general protection strategies and potential funding sources (MSCP, development mitigation, land-use regulation, SANDAG, SDCWA, cities, county and state)

**Program 2: Support and Encourage Recreation and Education**

**Complete the Trail**

* Collaborate with partners to make trail real, safe, visible and educational
* Also focus on habitat restoration and interpretive opportunities
* Continue development of a more robust connection and a physical path between Old Town State Historic Park, Junipero Serra Museum and the San Diego River Trail
* Update San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis
* Accommodate multiple user types (pedestrian, bicyclist and equestrian)

**Program 3: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources**

**Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land**

* Continue invasive plant removal and restoration of land within the watershed
* Establish additional partnerships agreements to use SDRC permits for this work
* Continue annual reporting to regulatory agencies
* Help facilitate restoration of sensitive habitat
* Coordinate with existing and adopted plans
* Help facilitate preservation of species

**Continue ongoing maintenance and funding for investments (e.g., Proposition 40, Supplemental Environmental Projects, local governments, other sources)**

* Continue support of Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

**Program 4: Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources**

**Expand partnerships to preserve and provide access to cultural and historical resources, and build on education efforts**

* Work with San Diego History Center for implementation of its Interpretive Master Plan for Junipero Serra Museum
* Work with Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
* Pursue National Heritage Areas or other designations to protect cultural and/or historical resources
* Link to museums and educational institutions

**Program 5: Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance**

**Continue collaboration with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB), as well as other partners and co-permittees on projects or programs consistent with the strategic plans of both agencies, federal, state and local water quality plans and goals, particularly:**

* Municipal Storm Water Permit (including MS4 regarding groundwater and stormwater runoff)
* Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project
* San Diego River Watershed Management Plan
* Support Community Cleanup and Trash Collection project initiatives
* SDRWQCB San Diego River Watershed Monitoring Project

* Encourage use of consistent metrics in San Diego River Watershed to assess project effectiveness

**Program 6: Expand the Organization’s Capacity and Public Outreach**

**Develop and implement a partnering strategy to continue grant programs**

* Strengthen current partnerships and develop additional partnerships, including other agencies, K-12, universities and other stakeholders
* Pursuant to the San Diego River Master Plan, coordinate with the City of San Diego on any redevelopment projects within the San Diego River watershed
* Coordinate with appropriate jurisdictions and partners on any redevelopment projects along the San Diego River
* Coordinate with relevant master plans and master plan updates, as well as other jurisdictions’ planning documents
* Collaborate with partners regarding regulatory and resource agency issues, and develop a comprehensive, collaborative approach to obtain additional permits when necessary

**Expand focus and capacity**

* Increase number of voting Board members to 15
* Identify and pursue projects that address climate change and its impacts on the San Diego River watershed
* Identify and pursue projects that address environmental justice

**Expand public outreach**

* Establish office within the San Diego River watershed
* Better utilize website to enhance awareness of restoration strategies, grants and achievements
* Establish a San Diego River Conservancy speakers committee for Board and staff to make presentations to community and other groups