# Notice of Public Meeting

**San Diego River Conservancy**

A public meeting of the Governing Board of

The San Diego River Conservancy

will be held Wednesday,

**February 7, 2024**

**10:00 am – Noon**

**Meeting Locations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| County of San Diego Administration Center  1600 Pacific Highway, Room 301  San Diego, California 92101 | Natural Resources Agency  715 P Street  20-104 (Mojave Room)  Sacramento, California, 95814 | One Doubletree  Rohnert Park  California, 94928 |

**Teleconference Line**

**877-411-9748, Code 3906093**

For Questions Contact:

Wendell Taper at [wendell.taper@sdrc.ca.gov](mailto:wendell.taper@sdrc.ca.gov) or (619) 390-0568

**Meeting Agenda**

**The Board may take agenda items out of order to accommodate speakers and to maintain a quorum, unless noted as time specific.**

# 1. Roll Call

# 2. Approval of Minutes *(ACTION)*

# Consider approval of minutes for the July 13, 2023 and November 9, 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 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. San Diego River Conservancy’s Strategic Plan Update *(ACTION*)**

The Conservancy engaged the services of San Diego Canyonlands, a community-based organization, to conduct outreach and to help prepare the Conservancy’s next 5-year strategic plan. This item was presented at the November 2023 Board Meeting, but we did not have a quorum to take action on this item. Conservancy staff recommends approval of the plan. The Board may discuss, comment, or adopt the plan.

**Overview:**

**Julia Richards, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy**

**Recommendation: Approve Plan**

# 8. Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation’s Proposal for Fire Resiliency and Invasive Control in Mission Trails Regional Park (*ACTION)*

The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation’s (the Foundation) proposed project is to protect conserved habitat by removing and controlling invasive non-native plants on approximately 70 acres of public parkland, including trails and staging areas. In addition, the project also targets 200 acres of grassland which boarders State Route 52, for wildfire preparedness and hazardous fuel reduction. Cut vegetation will be disposed of offsite. The City of San Diego’s Department of Parks and Recreation supports this proposed project and will partner with the Foundation to implement it. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $1,800,000 from the Budget Act of 2023.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Jennifer Morrissey, Executive Director**

**Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-01**

# 9. San Diego Girl Scouts Proposal to Conduct Fuel Reduction Activities and Build a Tree Nursery at Camp Winacka/Camp Whispering Oaks *(ACTION)*

The Girl Scouts of San Diego’s proposed project for fuel reduction activities at Camp Winacka/Camp Whispering Oaks in Julian includes the control of invasive non-native vegetation on 144 acres and the removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees infested with invasive pests. The proposed project also includes construction of a nursery with two greenhouses to propagate and plant trees within the forested environment. This nursery will offer a hands-on learning experience to propagate and plant native trees and study the forest ecosystem, including career exploration in the environmental disciplines. The U.S. Forest Service and the National Resource Conservation Service have expressed interest and support the Girl Scouts in this effort with their expertise and relationships in the industry. The camps are adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest and other open space. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $759,158 from the Budget Act of 2023.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Eric Williams, Director of Property, Girl Scouts San Diego**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-02**

# 10.San Diego Audubon Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary Proposal to Mitigate Fire Risk *(ACTION)*

San Diego Audubon Society requests funding to remove flammable fuel loads/invasive non-native plants on 65 acres and to create 8 acres of defensible space at the Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lakeside community along the San Diego River. Its proposal also includes updating the map to a digital format, installing a new kiosk, and hiring a part-time coordinator to develop a fire education curriculum, attend Fire Safe Council meetings and events, develop and utilize outreach materials, and engage the community. The Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary is in the Wildland-Urban Interface area in San Diego’s rural east county, adjacent to the Barona Band of Mission Indian’s Reservation, and surrounded by open space identified as a High and Very High risk in the Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CAL FIRE). Conservancy staff recommends $188,510.30 for this Project, and, if approved, funding would be provided from the Budget Act of 2023.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Nick Thorpe, Philanthropy Coordinator, San Diego Audubon Society**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-03**

# 11.Cleveland National Forest’s 2023-2024 Wildfire Proposal *(ACTION)*

The Cleveland National Forest’s proposed project includes multiple components with the goal of fire prevention and safety through increased vegetation management, emergency preparedness, and response. If approved, the project will fund the hiring of surge staffing; purchase personal protective equipment, fire hose appliances and hose tools, and fuels reduction equipment, including two utility task vehicles and one tracked chipper; upgrade internet connections; and provide backup power generation and transfer switches to serve as Incident Command Post(s) during emergencies in San Diego’s rural areas. Cleveland National Forest Project locations were identified as a High and Very High risk in the Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CAL FIRE). Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $1,200,000 from the Budget Act of 2021.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Scott Tangenberg, Forest Superintendent, Cleveland National Forest**

**Rick Marinelli, Deputy Fire Chief, Cleveland National Forest**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-04**

# 12.San Diego Regional Fire Foundation Proposal for Wildfire Mitigation & Suppression *(ACTION)*

The San Diego Regional Fire Foundation requests funding to procure three fire apparatuses, equipment, and supplies to help mitigate and suppress fires for ten fire stations located in the County of San Diego. The proposed project includes procurement of one Type 3 brush fire engine; partial funding for two Type 6 “Quick Attack” fire engines; one commercial hand-fed chipper, one skid steer chipper with attachments, and one trailer; 308 very high-frequency (VHF) mobile hand-held radios; and to replace aging fire tools and supplies to help respond to wildfire events in the WUI and rural areas in the County of San Diego. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $2,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2023.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Joan Jones, Executive Director, San Diego Regional Fire Foundation**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-05**

# 13.Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation’s Proposal for Fifty Interpretive and Educational Signs *(ACTION)*

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation requests funding to design, fabricate, and install 50 bilingual interpretive panels throughout Mission Trails Regional Park. The proposed project aims to educate and interpret the park's valuable resources. The panels will engage visitors by creating meaningful encounters with the natural, cultural, and historical resources. Helping people understand conservation and the dynamics of the natural environment will help protect these valuable resources in Mission Trails Regional Park. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $150,000 from the Budget Act of 2022.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Jennifer Morrissey, Executive Director**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-06**

# 14.San Diego County Parks Proposal for Improvements to the Historic Flume Segment of the San Diego River Trail *(ACTION)*

The County of San Diego's Department of Parks and Recreation seeks funding to remediate seven asbestos pipes, remove rusty barbed wire fencing, and add erosion control measures on the Historic Flume trail segment (Section 60A). Removing the hazardous material and implementing trail restoration on this San Diego River Trail segment would increase public safety and enjoyment. These trail improvements will allow users to experience the outdoors, the natural resources, and the viewshed along the San Diego River. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $500,000 from the Budget Act of 2022.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Moises Pinedo, Chief, Departmental Operations**

**County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-07**

# 15. San Diego State University Research Foundation’s Proposal for One Water Center’s Living Learning Laboratory *(ACTION)*

In partnership with professors in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, the San Diego State University Research Foundation proposes constructing a living laboratory where students and the public can learn about watershed science and resource management. The facility will include two modular laboratory buildings, a deck, a ramp, a security system, lab equipment, and supplies. The SDSU Mission Valley River Park facility is located close to the San Diego River, a bioretention basin, and sewer infrastructure. The strategic location allows faculty and students to utilize it for water testing, monitoring, research, and training. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $2,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2022 or Proposition 68.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Natalie Mladenov, PhD., San Diego State University Professor**

**William E. Leonhard Jr. Endowed Professor**

**Dept. of Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering**

**Water Innovation and Reuse Laboratory**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-08**

# 16. San Diego County Parks Improvements to Cactus County Park *(ACTION)*

The County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation (County Parks) requests funding to improve public facilities at Cactus County Park by replacing the existing restroom with an ADA-compliant prefabricated restroom and installing new LED lighting and poles for three ballfields. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of $2,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2022.

**Available for Q and A:**

**Moises Pinedo, Chief, Departmental Operations**

**County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-09**

# 17. 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:

Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2024-25 (released January 10, 2024)

Conservancy staff attended the follow events:

Fire Safe Councils of San Diego County meetings

County Supervisor Nora Vargas event to celebrate Native American Month

Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council meeting

San Diego Regional Fire Foundation meeting

California Truth & Healing Council

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee Meeting

California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force meeting

2023 California Leads Conference

San Diego Canyonlands Advisory Committee

**18. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is anticipated to be held in person on Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**19. 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 [Wendell.Taper@sdrc.ca.gov](mailto:Wendell.Taper@sdrc.ca.gov)