

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,

September 18, 2024
10:00 am – Noon

Meeting Locations

County of San Diego's Administration Center 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302 San Diego, CA 92101	Natural Resources Agency HQ 715 P Street 20-103 (Serpentine Room) Sacramento, CA, 95814
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Teleconference Line
877-411-9748, Code 3906093

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 17, 2024, meeting.

3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority and jurisdiction. 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)

Reminder Ethics Form is due to the Conservancy by October 22, 2024.

6. Health and Safety Report (INFORMATIONAL)

7. An Overview of Atmospheric Rivers (INFORMATIONAL)

Dr. Kalansky will provide an overview of atmospheric rivers. Even though atmospheric rivers come in many shapes and sizes, those that contain the largest amounts of water vapor and the strongest winds can create extreme rainfall and floods, often by stalling over watersheds vulnerable to flooding. Dr. Kalansky’s research works on integrating climate, atmospheric, and hydrologic sciences to build resilience to extreme weather and climate by understanding past variability and future changes.

Presentation:

Julie Kalansky, Ph.D., Deputy Director at the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego

8. San Diego Regional Fire Foundation’s Proposal to Procure Personal Protective Equipment for Imperial Beach’s Lifeguards and Firefighters (ACTION)

The proposed project will procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the City of Imperial Beach’s lifeguards and firefighters. The City of Imperial Beach is located within the Tijuana River watershed in the County of San Diego. New personal protective equipment would improve the health and safety of the first responders by reducing exposure to contaminations from the Tijuana River. San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, in partnership with the City of Imperial Beach Marine Safety Department and Fire- Rescue Departments, requested funding for \$75,143.00. Conservancy staff recommends fully funding this project.

Presentation:

Joan Jones, Executive Director, San Diego Regional Fire Foundation
Jason Lindquist, Marine Safety Captain, Marine Safety, City of Imperial Beach
John French, Fire Chief, Imperial Beach Fire-Rescue, City of Imperial Beach

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-20

9. Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy (*INFORMATIONAL*)

San Diego River Conservancy Board Member, Emily Burgueno, will provide an overview of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy and discuss uses of tribal ecological knowledge to help manage land.

Presentation:

Emily Burgueno, Chair of Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy and Head Seed Keeper of the lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

10. County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Updates on the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (*INFORMATIONAL*)

The County is exploring efforts to pursue an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District, which will help develop an alternate funding source for trail, infrastructure, and other improvements along the river corridor to help complete the San Diego River Trail and the San Diego River Park vision. This is a follow up to the November 9, 2023, presentation from County Parks.

Presentation:

Crystal Benham, Resource Management Chief, County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation
Lizzy Bendrick, Trails Program Manager, County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation

11. 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:

- Update on permits for the Conservancy’s Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal and Restoration Program
- Social media update

Conservancy staff attended the follow events:

Second Annual State Leadership Summit
California Government Innovation Summit
California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force Meeting
Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee Meeting
Fire Safe Council of San Diego County meeting
Truth & Healing Council, sub-committee meetings

12. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is anticipated to be held in person on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 10:00 am to noon.

13. Adjournment

Accessibility

If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Wendell Thompson at 619-390-0568 or Wendell.Thompson@sdrc.ca.gov.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 18, 2024

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 18, 2024

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**

The Board will consider adoption of the July 17, 2024, Board Meeting.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of July 17, 2024, Public Meeting
(Draft Minutes for Approval on September 18, 2024)

CONSERVANCY Board Member, Ben Clay called the July 17, 2024, meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Item 1. Roll Call

Members Present

Emily Burgueno	Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
Jennifer Campbell	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Raul Campillo	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Rebecca Fris	Wildlife Conservation Board
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ray Lennox	Department of Parks and Recreation
Glen Lubcke	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Phil Ortiz	City of El Cajon
Cody Petterson	Speaker of the Assembly (Arrive 10:10 am)
Elsa Saxod	Public at Large
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lisa Tomas	Department of Parks and Recreation

Absent

Joel Anderson	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Stephen Benson	Department of Finance
Andrea Scharffer	Natural Resources Agency
Dustin Trotter	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

Phil Ortiz moved for approval of the March 28, 2024, minutes and Elsa Saxod seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Ray Lennox, Glen Lubcke, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Raul Campillo, Emily Burgueno, Phil Ortiz, Elsa Saxod (9-0-1) Abstain: Lisa Tomas.

Item 3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Ben Clay welcomed two new Board Members: Glen Lubcke, Environmental Program Manager for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Lisa Tomas, Deputy District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation, South Coast District.

Lizzy Bendrick introduced herself with the County Department of Parks and Recreation. She gave a quick update on the Enhance Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD). With the headwaters of the San Diego River in Julian and sandy Ocean Beach, the goal of the EIFD is to make the Conservancy's vision a reality. Since they last presented to the Board in November 2023, there are a couple updates. Since then, they have continued to partner with the City of San Diego. They held two public meetings working with the consultant.

The EIFD is a new funding mechanism that allows jurisdictions to set aside future tax revenue for a dedicated purpose. The EIFD does not involve a new tax, rather creates a plan for focusing tax increments on a specific area in the vicinity of the River Park that will help pay for capital investments to benefit the San Diego River Park.

All EIFD are governed by a Public Finance Authority (PFA), which is responsible for the Infrastructure Financing Plan (IFP) which is the investment plan for San Diego River Park. Once that's established the PFA will oversee the IFP. The first Board Action they will have to move this EIFD forward is in September 2024. Following that will be another hearing in October 2024. They will come back in September after coordinating with Julia for a full presentation on the project.

Ben Clay asked if the County would put out a request for applications.

Lizzy Bendrick responded; they have a website that is accepting PFA applications. The PFA will be made up of 7 members, 3 members of the public, 2 City Council members, and 2 County Board of Supervisors.

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

Ray Lennox recognized the San Diego River Conservancy in the 21st California State Parks Annual Directors Recognition Award. The Inspiration Award is presented to an individual or team who has inspired public support or successful achievement of a major objective. The award exemplifies the determination and passion of Andrew P. Hill, who led long difficult campaign to create the California first redwood park at big basin in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Specifically, in 2020 the San Diego River Conservancy funded the Native American Conservation Corps which is a two-year pilot project with fire money from Sacramento. This year it is being recognized as a partner. He thanked the Conservancy and shared the award with the Board.

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

Hayley Peterson reminded the Board to complete the California Department of Justice's State Ethics Training Course which is required every 2-years. For those who serve on local agency governing boards, those ethics trainings do not meet the state's requirement.

Conservancy staff will email the Board Members related information in the next 2 weeks. A certificate of completion is due to the Conservancy by October 22, 2024.

Please reach out to Conservancy staff if you have any questions.

Raul Campillo asked if this is the AB 1234 training?

Hayley Peterson responded it is the Fair Political Practices Commission's (FPPC).

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

No report.

Item 7. Forecast Modeling in the Tijuana River Valley (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Julia Richards thanked Chair Clay. Julia welcomed Falk Feddersen, Ph.D., Professor of Oceanography, Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC, San Diego.

Dr. Feddersen will present on the efforts to develop a real-time pathogen transport model for the Tijuana River Valley. This model could validate water quality investments and provide precise tools to protect public health and support beach closures for San Diego's south county beaches. Dr. Feddersen studies various aspects of coastal and nearshore oceanography that include waves, currents, turbulence, and biological processes.

His research includes instrument development, observations, theory, and modeling. Julia welcomed Dr. Feddersen to the podium.

Falk Feddersen thanked the Board and Chair Clay. He is a professor at Scripps who an Oceanography in contrast to Dr. Prather is who is an atmospheric chemist. The ocean outfalls at Point Loma are very deep and are secondarily treated. Additionally, the water is cold that discharge does not return to shore.

They study the links between human health impacts and polluted water from Mexico. He showed a photo of imperial Beach with water dyed pink. That way they can track where pollution is flowing. The different sources of water include Tijuana River and 6 miles south of the boarder is an outfall near San Antonio del Mar to Punta Bandera.

Under normal conditions wastewater going into the Tijuana River ebbs and flows. There are construction failures, but essentially 10 million of gallons a day of effluent comes from Tijuana. 35 million gallons of raw sewage enters Tijuana River. They speak with lifeguards about poor water quality in the summer. The County tests water quality sampling for enterococcus or fecal indicator bacteria. There are issues with these efforts because water samples are cultured for bacteria. This is late 19th century technology. After the time it takes to grow the bacteria, the beach may no longer be contaminated.

Unfortunately, fecal indicator bacteria, specifically enterococcus, are pathogens that don't make us sick. They are only tracers of potential fecal sources. Another thing is fecal indicator bacteria live in our gut and don't like sunlight. They die from the sunlight within 2 to 8 hours. Water from Punta Bandera to Imperial Beach takes a couple days. Norovirus makes us sick and is the main risk factor.

When lifeguards call the county to measure water quality, fecal indicator bacteria may not be there because its dead. So, what drives these pollution plumes. The waves from the southwest transport dye. They will investigate discharges from Punta Banderas' impact on human health. The dilution factor means 1 mL of sewage to 1 Liter of water. The south swell is like a river and spreads out once it reaches Silver Strand.

Ben Clay asked about the inside current.

Falk Fedderson responded this is the south swell but also downwelling. Their funding helped with the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement. Since they already had simulation data from 2017 it was easy to leverage. The EPA had a public outreach process to develop 10 different scenarios for fixing infrastructure both in US and Mexico. With help from the EPA, they distilled it down into 3 scenarios. The first scenario would reduce discharge from Punta Bandera, then divert the inflow into the estuary up to 35 million gallons per day. Scenario B was no change to discharge just diversion and C is like the previous just with different capacities. Scenario C was the initial favorite. With the model, they can calculate how long the beach should be closed.

From their model, the percentage of time the beach should be closed in 2017 showed 60% of the time at Playas, 38% at Imperial Beach, 24% of the time at Silver Strand and 17% at hotel del Coronado. Punta Bandera is having a big effect on human health.

Ben Clay mentioned the Navy Seals need to go to Catalina Island for clean water to train. Ben asked what the San Diego River Conservancy should do.

Falk Fedderson if you break down summer and winter season it is more dramatic. This is his first study that directly impacted decision making. More recently the County of San Diego changed water sampling to ddPCR. Since culturing bacteria takes time and can only be done with living bacteria, their results were coming up negative. With ddPCR they can amplify genes in the water from bacteria that are dead or alive.

They are developing a 3-4 day forecast model to tell when it is safe to visit the beach. Norovirus is rarely measured because it takes a lot of water to detect and has a half-life of 10 days. Funding was provided by Steve Padilla and the State of California.

Ruth Hayward suggested they get in contact with SDSU and the OneWater Living Learning Laboratory.

Phil Ortiz asked when is this considered an environmental disaster?

Falk Fedderson replied it already is.

Lisa Tomas commented State Parks was able to access moneys because of Hurricane Hilary.

Emily Burgueno asked if they test inside the San Diego Bay.

Falk Fedderson responded they focused on the model simulation and where swimmers could potentially be.

Item 8. Aerosolized Pollutants at Imperial Beach (INFORMATIONAL)

Julia Richards welcomed Kim Prather, Ph.D., Distinguished Chair in Atmospheric Chemistry and Distinguished Professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Prather will present her ongoing Imperial Beach research that seeks to understand the health and environmental impacts of ocean-derived pollutants and toxins. Her work focuses on studying the ocean-to-atmosphere transfer and subsequent atmospheric transport to better understand the potential for airborne exposure to pollutants and pathogens from polluted water. Her research specifically focuses on measurements of the sources and composition of aerosols that are small enough to be inhaled deep into our lungs and impact human health. Although humans inhale 11,000 liters of air per day, previous studies have not considered potential exposure to waterborne pollutants. Dr. Prather, a distinguished professor and director of the Center for Aerosol Impacts on Chemistry and the Environment at UC San Diego, leads research into understanding the sources of atmospheric aerosols, both natural and human-created, and their impact on climate, air quality, and human and ecosystem health.

Dr. Prather was asked to come to the podium and share her presentation.

Kim Prather thanked the Board for inviting her to speak on the research they have been conducting. She is an aerosol scientist who was heavily involved in researching the Covid-19 pandemic. She spent her career looking

at what's in the air, where it comes from and how it affects our climate, weather and water. Now she examines how pollutants in the air affect humans.

Her research team is trying to understand why people are getting sick with the issues at Imperial Beach, which have been ongoing for many decades. They work closely with the community, mayor and others in the region. This transborder issue releases raw sewage, however their air samplers are located at the Imperial Beach lifeguard station and pier. 44 billion gallons of sewage emptied into the ocean just last Monday. Although people don't go in the ocean water, they can smell the sewage in the air and people are getting sick. Her team works with kids at the local high school to be advocates in their community and an article was recently released by Voice of San Diego.

With so much emphasis on drinking two liters of water a day, many ignore that fact that humans inhale 11,000 liters of air a day. The big question is can we link water quality with air quality? Most people don't think of it that way. Her team uses satellite imagery to detect pollution. They developed Ocean Atmosphere simulators focusing on pathogens, viruses, bacteria and toxins. One of the simulations controls different air parameters.

Oceans tend to be good aerosolizers. Bubbles in the ocean burst and pollution is released into the air. The small droplet particles are then inhaled. A major accomplishment they discovered hinted at 20% of toxins and spores enters the air. They want to understand what controls this release into the air. Air pollution can travel for miles where ocean pathogens are being found in agricultural crops.

A graduate student published a paper in March 2023 showing 76% of bacteria comes from the Tijuana River linking water and air quality. Not just people at the beach, but all of San Diego is susceptible. A graph showed water pollutant concentration with air pollution concentrations.

Additionally, there are other water pollutants in the river and ocean. Microplastics, biocides, cocaine, methamphetamine. The take home is as pollutants increase in the water, so does air pollution. They started sampling in 2017. At that time, they were focused on water quality, but her team began looking at air quality. Also, with storms there is a larger surf causing more aerosolization. Another question was, how far up the coast does the pollution travel, and how many surfers are being affected?

They collected samples for 40 days in a row and in 2023 and 2024 the pollutant levels were the highest. The transboundary flow is measured. Surprisingly, volunteers offer to bring samples and there is a growing network. There aren't many air measurements at Imperial Beach. First, they quantify RNA and DNA in the air to see the correlation between transboundary flow.

Ben Clay asked about recycling sewage water.

Kim Prather stated even the outfalls' discharge, especially in Santa Barbara, rises to the surface. Big rain events increase DNA in the water, spiking air pollution as well. They also looked at RNA. Each sample had the same result. Phage is also in the air intact which means they are still active. The main location phages are in the air is at wastewater treatment plants. This is the first time she has realized airborne phage in an urban setting.

Department of Public Health does not look at this. Based on their classic water quality sampling markers, none of the health effects are correlated. There is a group of doctors who have gotten push back. Although we can't prove causation, the evidence suggests an increase of gastrointestinal illness by 500%. Most didn't have the classic indicators and did not go in the water at the beach.

This is a problem everywhere. She hears of examples from other locations. For example, Grand Canyon. In June, hikers slept near a waterfall which aerosolized pollutants and they got sick. Most people live near a water source.

Emily Burgueno asked about the article in Grand Canyon. Were there any cases with Native Americans since the articles focused on tourists.

Kim Prather responded she would like to find out. This summer they are starting a study in August. A mobile lab will take measurements in the air to discover toxins, LPS and norovirus. Smell is a big trigger for people. Starting in Imperial Beach they want to figure out a strategy to scale over a bigger area. Their goal is to develop a model for bad air days. She wants Imperial Beach residents to use air filters in doors to protect themselves.

In closing she discussed the website that shows where air samplers are located. Practically none are in Imperial Beach. She will gather a group of citizen scientists to fill in missing data gap of air pollution at Imperial Beach. She thanked her team, Scott Peters and the Board for this research and opportunity to share her findings. They are looking at air and ocean current patterns.

Ben Clay stated he used to be a lifeguard for the City of San Diego and would surf the sloughs with his counterparts while knowing there was a problem. Ben discussed how the Conservancy helped to purchase dry suits to protect lifeguards. Also, people talk about a second entrance at San Diego Bay.

Dr. Jennifer Campbell asked about air filters and particle size. Does static charge help?

Kim Prather confirmed they are better at collecting bigger and smaller sizes while intermediate sized particles are not as effective but still around 80% capture. In fact, they can be built for about \$70. A Corsi-Rosenthal Box is made up of a filter and fan. She would like these installed at schools and long-term care facilities.

Ruth Hayward asked where the filters can be purchased.

Phil Ortiz asked about the pushback from entities.

Kim Prather responded public health officials feel the pressure because they are not measuring the right things. It will cost money to change their sampling procedures.

Cody Petterson asked about scope and remediation. How far along are you with your study to determine when the risk of changing sampling procedures drops off? The other is how to solve the crisis of remediation. Lastly, schools have filtration capacity, but coastal schools are outdoors playing sports without the benefit of filtration.

Kim Prather the goal of their summer study is to validate your first question with the mobile sampling. The answer to the remediation is to not release pollutants to the air or water. Source control is figuring out where pollution is coming from. Lastly, some schools close and don't allow students outdoors when the smell is bad. She is not sure about other schools but states it is worth looking into.

Ben Clay asked about the San Diego River and what the Conservancy should be looking at.

Kim Prather responded the city and county are coming to grips with this. How much water pollution in the San Diego River has been mapped out?

Julia Richards mentioned the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board has that data.

Gary Strawn there is a pilot program with preliminary data, but they are looking at the human sources of bacteria in the San Diego River. There is little correlation with homeless encampments, but the biggest correlation is with sanitary sewer overflows. Southern California Coastal Water Research Project is looking into this as well.

Kim Prather recognized the problem is everywhere including northern California and New York. A universal tracer can distinguish human vs animal virus. The Pepper Mild Mottled Virus has been identified as a tracer.

Emily Burgueno asked about test samples expanding to fish and plants to see how they are affected.

Kim Prather responded they have not.

Phil Ortiz explained how he sits on the League of California Cities for San Diego. Every local city has signed on and wrote letters of action to the Governor's office. There is consensus amongst all cities.

Lisa Tomas stated the gaps in Kim's testing sites are within State Parks' boundaries.

Elsa Saxod started her career in US foreign relations in 1977 and this was an issue then. There is more money and studies available on the area, yet the issue remains unresolved. She asked how Sacramento and Washington can pay attention.

Item 9. County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation's Update on Wildfire Resilience Project *(INFORMATIONAL)*

Julia Richards thanked Chair Clay. The County of San Diego Parks and Recreation will provide an update on its completed wildfire resilience project. The County implemented the project to decrease the potential of catastrophic wildfires in multiple properties owned by County Parks in the Otay, Tijuana, Sweetwater and San Diego Rivers watersheds.

This project is making a positive impact and includes activities to reduce flash fuels, improve defensible space around structures and along roadways, and remove dead and dying trees. To carry out this work County Parks procured trucks, tractors with mower attachments, trailers, electric ATVs and other equipment. The other project benefits include reducing fire risk, protecting sensitive species and native habitats, which improve the health of these biodiverse landscapes in the County of San Diego.

Julia introduced Sean Hill, Acting Chief for North Operations and Emily Pacholski, Environmental Planner for the County of San Diego's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Sean Hill thanked the Board for this grant opportunity and for the opportunity to present on the accomplishments of the grant. The key accomplishments are related to fire fuel reduction in multiple DPR properties, restoration efforts at several preserves, equipment and tools procured with grant funding and summary of request for disbursements. Projects funded by the grant minimize the threat of wildfire in the region while enhancing the ecologic health and resilience across various county parks. Key initiatives include tamarisk removal in Kumeyaay Valley County Park (KVPC) and strategic reduction of fire fuels to mitigate fire risk and protect natural resources.

The initial controlling invasive species and promote native plant growth was a comprehensive management plan to stabilize the ecosystem. Trash removal especially at Otay Ranch County Preserve improves the cleanliness and ecological integrity. The Tijuana River Regional Valley Park improved habitat. Tools and equipment to support efficiency and effectiveness at DPR managed properties.

GeoCal was contracted to remove tamarisk at Kumeyaay Valley County Park. 22 acres were removed to help prepare for future restoration. Urban Corps of San Diego County assisted with numerous properties. Luis Stelzer Oak Oasis Cactus County Park South Land County Park William Heise County Park Lake Morena Historic Flume Trail Corridor and Tijuana River Valley Park. Many properties benefited from this grant.

In total 233 acres of fire fuels were removed (separate from the 22 acres at KVCP).

Emily Pacholski introduced herself as Land Use and Environmental Planner for County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation. In addition to tamarisk removal at KVCP, DPR contracted Helix Environmental to remove approximately 22 acres of invasive non-native vegetation including castor bean,

mustard and tree tobacco. Plants were hand pulled cut and treated or spot sprayed with herbicide within the 55-acre project area. Removal of these highly invasive species has reduced the risk of wildfire onsite.

In 2021 the county acquired this 98-acre property from Helix Water District within the community of Lakeside. Located along the San Diego River, it has riparian habitat as well as a large portion of the site that requires habitat restoration. They conducted biological and cultural surveys and are preparing a restoration plan. Once the plan is drafted, they will perform stakeholder outreach. Many organizations expressed interest in this property including the Conservancy, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, the San Diego River Park Foundation and Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy.

They also did extensive work and Lawrence and Barbara Daley County Preserve. Recon Environmental was contracted to treat and removal invasive non-native plant species. 170 eucalyptus trees were removed, and native seed was spread where the vegetation had been removed. Deer weed, sage brush, California buckwheat, laurel sumac were installed. Approximately 52 acres of invasive species were treated.

Recon also worked at Otay Ranch Preserve to perform coastal cactus wren habitat enhancement. This was done through invasive nonnative plant treatment shrub thinning and native plant seeding. Trash removal supported fire prevention. The area was seeded with dot seed plantain, littleseed muhley, common phacelia and caterpillar phacelia. Approximately 7,850 gallons of trash were removed, 11 acres were enhanced, and 2 acres of invasive trees were treated.

In Early 2024, Helix Environmental enhanced coastal sagebrush at Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. 12 acres of nonnative plants were treated. Project activities included identifying and mapping native habitat, mowing, line trimming, stump cutting, herbicide treatment and seeding.

Sean Hill discussed the equipment purchased through the grant which will help the County maintain fire breaks. A variety of heavy equipment included two Ford F-350 trucks, three John Deer tractors with mower attachments, three CASE track loaders, one caterpillar excavator, one Kubota tractor with mower attachment, three John Deer electric utility vehicles, and handheld battery powered tools.

Emily Burgueno asked about the herbicide used. Restoration projects should prioritize traditional ecological knowledge to manage vegetation. The concern of heavy equipment operated onsite can desecrate the soil. Also, she wanted to know how the organizations that expressed interest in this project were consulted. She is the chair of KDLC and wanted to learn more.

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

Julia Richards thanked Chair Clay. She provided a summary of the Conservancy's Annual Work Plan for 2024 which includes 33 projects currently in progress (valued at \$34 M). Of those projects, there are 27 for wildfire resilience in the County of San Diego. Other examples are SDSU One Water laboratory at the Mission Valley Park, which is next to the San Diego River, San Diego River Science Field Station located in a vulnerable and low-income community of Lakeside, and Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation for the installation of 50 bilingual interpretive panels. The interpretive panels will help promote and preserve the San Diego River through environmental education, cultural history, and wildlife preservation.

The project map showed project locations by Program Area. Most project locations are in the San Diego River watershed. Over 50% of projects supported by the Conservancy Strategic Plan, Program 3 – Preserve and Restore Natural Resources.

This map shows the Conservancy awarded over 12 projects in the Sweetwater, Otay and Tijuana Rivers watersheds. 2024 current projects with the Grantees were listed on the left side. Grant funding was provided by

the General Fund and Bond Funds. The photos included hand fed towable chipper, a grant awarded to Wynola Fire Safe Council, a tracked loader, and Chipping Day at Portero/Tecate Fire Safe Council.

Another partner is Cleveland National Forest (CNF). Staff photo included 3 multi-year grants which were awarded to CNF for fire and forest resilience valued at approximately \$5 million. These projects included funds for additional wildfire staffing, firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE), tools, and hazardous fuels reduction activities including prescribed fire.

28 Conservancy projects were completed valued at \$20 million. Two photos on the right-hand side are from SDSU's Mission Valley Park. The top picture is a prefabricated restroom, and the bottom is 11 Interpretive signs at the River Park which provide information/education on the San Diego River, agriculture, water quality and Kumeyaay games.

The original Grant to Lakeside Fire Protection was not able to complete the project. After Conservancy staff was informed, we notified Chair Clay. Conservancy staff reached out to other organizations to see who was able to take over the project. Heartland Communication was willing, and the Conservancy assigned the grant to them with a revised scope of work and budget to install one VHF repeater in the unincorporated area of San Diego County.

Other grant awards included the procurement of a mini excavator, wildfire supplies, PPE and funding to 12 Fire Safe Councils (FSC) through a grant to the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation. Additional completed projects with the partners listed on this slide include drysuits for the City of San Diego's Lifeguards. A new fire vehicle and one fire engine all-terrain vehicle (ATV) for accessing difficult terrain and a specialized trailer for eco-friendly fuel treatments along evacuation routes.

Julia thanked Conservancy partners for helping keep San Diego fire safe!

2025 proposed Board Meeting Dates will be on Wednesdays - January 15, March 19, May 21, July 9, September 17 and November 12. Meeting start times are based on conference room availability. For any Board Members that have conflicting schedules, please reach out to Conservancy staff.

Lastly, Senate Bill 867 passed the legislature and is now being called Proposition 4 – the California Parks, Environmental, Energy and Water Bond Measure of 2024. This will go to a public vote in November. Proposed allocations to the San Diego River Conservancy are \$25.5 million for fire resilience and \$48 million for nature-based solutions.

An update on the CNF and FSC. On Saturday May 25, Conservancy Staff attended the grand opening of the newly constructed Cha'Chaany Hamuk Trailhead, formerly known as the Three Sisters Falls Trailhead. During the planning process CNF invited the Kumeyaay Nations to assist with naming the new trailhead. Funders include Wildlife Conservation Board, Forest Foundation and the United States Forest Service. The new trailhead leads visitors to Eagle Peak and Three Sisters Falls with parking, vault toilets, tables, shade structures and a sign.

Adjacent to the new trailhead is an emergency support site funded by the San Diego River Conservancy. This site provides 30,000 gallons of water storage for wildland fire suppression, helicopter landing zone and parking for emergency vehicles.

On May 30, over 100 people attended the 17th annual Fire Safe Council Awards Ceremony. San Diego Regional Fire Foundation awarded 24 local FSCs with grants totaling \$250,000. The Conservancy provided \$125,000 for 12 grants to FSC in the Conservancy's service areas. Additional funders included SDG&E and the Resource Conservation District of San Diego County. This money will help prepare for wildfire event by providing chipping events, cleanup days, reflective address markers, home hardening measures and educational opportunities.

Item 11. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held Wednesday, September 18, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Item 12. Adjournment

Ben Clay adjourned the meeting at 11:52 am

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 18, 2024

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT (*INFORMATIONAL*)**

PURPOSE: Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters that are discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn by the Board's not responding to such matters or public comments.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 18, 2024

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBERS' REPORTS (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)**

PURPOSE: These items are for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 18, 2024

ITEM: 5

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

Reminder Ethics Form is due to the Conservancy by October 22,
2024.

State of California
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ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY (*INFORMATIONAL*)

State of California
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ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **AN OVERVIEW OF ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS
(INFORMATIONAL)**

Dr. Kalansky will provide an overview of atmospheric rivers. Even though atmospheric rivers come in many shapes and sizes, those that contain the largest amounts of water vapor and the strongest winds can create extreme rainfall and floods, often by stalling over watersheds vulnerable to flooding. Dr. Kalansky's research works on integrating climate, atmospheric, and hydrologic sciences to build resilience to extreme weather and climate by understanding past variability and future changes.

Presentation:

Julie Kalansky, Ph.D., Deputy Director at the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego

State of California
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ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO REGIONAL FIRE FOUNDATION'S
PROPOSAL TO PROCURE PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR IMPERIAL
BEACH'S LIFEGUARDS AND FIREFIGHTERS
(ACTION)**

The proposed project will procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the City of Imperial Beach's lifeguards and firefighters. The City of Imperial Beach is located within the Tijuana River watershed in the County of San Diego. New personal protective equipment would improve the health and safety of the first responders by reducing exposure to contaminations from the Tijuana River. San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, in partnership with the City of Imperial Beach Marine Safety Department and Fire- Rescue Departments, requested funding for \$75,143.00. Conservancy staff recommends fully funding this project.

Presentation:

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

**Jason Lindquist, Marine Safety Captain, Marine Safety, City of
Imperial Beach**

**John French, Fire Chief, Imperial Beach Fire-Rescue, City of
Imperial Beach**

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-20

Resolution No: 24-20

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$75,143.00 FROM THE
BUDGET ACT OF 2021 TO SAN DIEGO REGIONAL FIRE FOUNDATION TO
PURCHASE NEW DRY SUITS, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND
BREATHING APPARATUS MASKS FOR THE CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH MARINE
SAFETY AND FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

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 the San Diego Rivers Watershed Consortium area; 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, the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for \$75,143.00 to purchase 20 new dry suits, 12 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) and 12 breathing apparatus masks for the City of Imperial Beach (Project); and

WHEREAS, San Diego River Conservancy staff is recommending \$75,143.00 to implement the Project; and

WHEREAS, this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, Program 6 Expand the Organization's Capacity and Public Outreach and in the interest of public safety.

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 \$75,143.00 (Seventy-Five Thousand One Hundred Forty-Three 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, budget, and schedule.

Approved and adopted on September 18, 2024. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 24-20 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: Andrea Scharffer			
DOF: Stephen Benson			
CADFW: Glen Lubcke			
Dr. Jennifer Campbell, SD Mayor Designee			
Joel Anderson, County Supervisor			
Raul Campillo			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
J. Cody Petterson			
Emily Burgueno			
Elsa Saxod			
DPR Designee, Ray Lennox			
DPR Designee, Lisa Tomas			
Dustin Trotter			

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 24-20
September 18, 2024

DIRECTED GRANT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$75,143.00 to the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation (SDRFF) to purchase dry suits, personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus masks for first responders working for Imperial Beach (IB) Marine Safety and Fire-Rescue Department in the Tijuana River Watershed.

LOCATION: With a population of approximately 26,000, Imperial Beach is located along the coast in the southwesterly portion of California, extending four miles from the southern end of Silver Strand State Beach to the U.S. – Mexico border where the Tijuana River flows into the Pacific Ocean, 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 (Conservancy) hereby authorizes the disbursement of funding for projects focused on enhancing river parkways, protecting resources, restoring native habitat and fire protection and suppression, specifically as follows:

To the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, the sum of \$75,143.00 (Seventy-Five Thousand One Hundred Forty-Three Dollars) to use as follows:

- To purchase 20 dry suits, 12 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) and 12 breathing apparatus masks to be used by the City of Imperial Beach lifeguards and firefighters during emergency responses in San Diego County (Project).

The grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule. The names and qualifications of any contractors retained in carrying out the project will be provided.

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

Based on the 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.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

BACKGROUND:

SDRFF is a non-profit organization that aims to protect lives, property, and the environment by strengthening the fire and emergency services system in San Diego County. SDRFF builds partnerships and provides resources where they are needed most by working closely with fire chiefs and lifeguards to identify and raise funds for Departmental needs. These efforts increase first responder safety by delivering medical and rescue services equipment and supplies.

Established in 1946, Imperial Beach Fire-Rescue Department is responsible for the protection of life and property of Imperial Beach citizens and surrounding communities. The Department responds to approximately 2,800 emergency calls each year and provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, prevention, education, inspection, community service, and weed abatement services.

In a similar capacity, Imperial Beach Marine Safety lifeguards respond to beach and aquatic emergencies. Lifeguards patrol the shoreline from 7:00 am to dusk, 365 days a year. Annual staffing levels vary from four lifeguards in the winter to as many as twenty lifeguards during the spring and summer. During the summer months, eight lifeguard beach towers, two emergency vehicles and a pier observation tower are staffed as needed to provide 2.5 million annual visitors beach and ocean safety oversight.

Photo 1: Imperial Beach Marine Safety Lifeguards



PROJECT NEED:

The Tijuana River is one of the 10 most Endangered Rivers® in America¹ and ranked amongst the highest polluted beaches in Summer Dry Weather along the West coast in 2023-2024.² In the past five years, more than 100 billion gallons of untreated sewage, hazardous industrial chemicals, and trash have flowed across the U.S./Mexico border and into the Pacific Ocean. This pollution has led to beach closures of over 1,000 days in Imperial Beach and Coronado, as well as threats to public health and marine habitats.

¹ American Rivers. America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2024 Spotlights Threats to Your Clean Water (<https://www.americanrivers.org/2024/04/most-endangered-rivers-of-2024-spotlights-threats-to-your-clean-water/>)

² Heal the Bay. Water Quality at California Beaches Dips in 2023-24 (<https://healthebay.org/water-quality-at-california-beaches-dips-in-2023-24/>)

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Since 2017, the City of Imperial Beach has declared a continued state of emergency because of the transboundary flows of untreated domestic and industrial wastewater from the City of Tijuana, Mexico.

Photo 2: Transboundary flows from Tijuana, Mexico to Imperial Beach, California



Photo courtesy of WILD COAST (<https://today.ucsd.edu/story/coastal-water-pollution-transfers-to-the-air-in-sea-spray-aerosol-and-reaches-people-on-land>)

Poor water quality along Imperial Beach coastline has been linked to 34,000 annual illnesses, and approximately 76% of those illnesses are related to sewage pollution, according to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The continuous flow of untreated sewage has also decreased tourism, hurt local businesses, and lowered property values, according to a resolution recently passed by the California Legislature³.

In a recent report by San Diego State University (SDSU), the public health impact of this crisis extends beyond beach closures, as toxic chemicals and microbes are also found in the air and soil. According to IB Mayor Paloma Aguirre “residents in south San Diego County are slowly being poisoned by this crisis....”

Key to this Project proposal is the health and safety of Imperial Beach first responders as they are exposed every day to hazardous conditions. With



Photo 3. Polluted water in the Tijuana River Valley at Dairy Mart Road near the International border. (Tijuana in the background).

³ AJR 12, Alvarez. Tijuana River: cross-border pollution. Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to the Tijuana River. Filed with Secretary of State September 5, 2024 ([https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AJR12.](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AJR12))

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

untreated sewage and contaminated debris flowing down the Tijuana River and into the Pacific Ocean and with toxins now in the air, the health and safety of the City of IB's first responders is at risk. Equipment funded by this Project will keep first responders safe, improve their health, and enable them to perform their job duties and improve public safety.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This Project will provide IB lifeguards and firefighters with PPE to protect their health and safety while they respond to rescues and emergencies. Lifeguards will receive 20 sets of dry suits for ocean and swift water rescue emergencies to reduce the risk of contracting life-threatening illnesses due to exposure of sewage contamination. With this request, all IB lifeguards will have at least one set of dry suits.

Photo 4: Imperial Beach Fire-Rescue Department



Pollution from the Tijuana River is now being detected in the air. Firefighters are also exposed to this contamination and their health must also be protected. In addition, this project will provide 12 sets of PPE to replace their worn, aging equipment as well as 12 breathing apparatus masks that are deteriorating.



Photo 5. Freeway brush fire near the Tijuana River area in Imperial Beach

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

DELIVERABLES:

- Semi-annual progress reports with photo documentation of delivered equipment
- Purchase 20 dry suits, 12 PPE and 12 breathing apparatus masks
- Final Report.

Table 1. Estimated Budget and Anticipated Schedule

Task #	Description	Amount	Schedule
1. Program Administration and Management	Oversight, management and administration of project including reporting	\$9,801	Semi- annual progress reports
2. Lifeguard Dry Suits	10 dry suits for full time lifeguards & 10 dry suits and basic equipment for part time lifeguards.	\$24,881	Throughout the 15-month grant period
3. Firefighter PPE	12 sets of PPE and 12 breathing apparatus masks.	\$40,461	Throughout the 15-month grant period
TOTAL		\$75,143.00	

PROJECT FINANCING: The total Project amount is \$82,403.00; the Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$75,143.00 for the implementation of the proposed Project. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this Project is the Budget Act of 2021.

LEVERAGED FUNDING: The City of Imperial Beach will contribute \$7,260, or 11% match of the total PPE cost \$65,342.

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): The Project is consistent with Program 6 Expand the Organization’s Capacity and Public Outreach of the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan Update 2024-2028.

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

- Protecting resources
- Reducing flood and fire risk

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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. San Diego River Conservancy's Climate Change Policy

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

b. Leverages partnerships and resources with local communities.

C. San Diego Region Basin Plan

Nonhazardous solid waste means all putrescible and non-putrescible solid, semisolid, and liquid wastes, including garbage, trash, refuse, paper, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, demolition, and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles and parts thereof.

D. California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement

Provides for systematic mobilization, organization, and operation of necessary fire and rescue resources of the State and its political subdivisions in mitigating the effects of disasters, whether natural or human caused. In developing emergency plans, provisions should be made for integrating fire and rescue resources into mutual aid organizations for both fire and non-fire related disaster; (i.e., earthquake, flood).

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

a. 2.3.4 Flood Emergency Management:

i. Flood Preparedness - Flood preparedness includes the development of plans and procedures on how to respond to a flood in advance of a flood emergency, including preparing emergency response plans, training local response personnel, designating evacuation procedures, conducting exercises to assess readiness, and developing emergency response agreements that address issues of liability and responsibility.

ii. Emergency Response - Emergency response is the aggregate of all those actions taken by responsible parties at the time of a flood emergency.

F. California Natural Resources Agency's Initiatives

This project advances the following initiatives:

- Equity and Environmental Justice

G. San Diego County Fire Strategic Plan 2020-2025

a. Goal 1 Employee health and professional development

i. Objective 4. Empower and engage the workforce to effectively accomplish the Organizations mission.

b. Goal 2 Exceptional Emergency Services

i. Objective 2. Enhance all hazard response capabilities

ii. Objective 4. Ensure effective deployment of resources

c. Goal 4 Organizational Excellence and Fiscal Sustainability

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i. Objective 4. Increase grant opportunities and funding

H. San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association

a. Goal 8 Promote Safety and Wellness among all members.

I. San Diego County - Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan – Annex B Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Operations

- a. To minimize loss of life, subsequent disability, and human suffering by ensuring timely and coordinated firefighting and search and rescue efforts.
- b. To identify the resources necessary for locating and removing endangered, trapped, injured, or isolated persons and providing adequate care.
- c. Ensure fire and rescue services are available to the whole community, including those with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

J. Imperial Beach Community Resilience Plan (Public Review Draft)

- a. Identify, through community engagement and technical analyses, sea level rise adaptation solutions that provide multiple benefits, including environment conservation, preservation of public access, economic sustainability, and the protection of the City's vulnerable disadvantaged communities.

K. City of Imperial Beach General Plan/Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan Final Draft - Revised

- a. Maintains goals for safety protection and shoreline management.
 - i. 2.7.13 Implement development policies to protect the public health, safety, and welfare equitably among all segments of the population. Address the needs of those who are disenfranchised in the process
 - ii. 7.0 Safety Element
A resilient City that is prepared to reduce risk to life and property from fire, flood, climate change, geologic and seismic-related, and other hazards.

BENEFITS

With this grant funding, the SDRFF will be able to expand its partnership with IB first responders while benefitting underserved and disadvantaged communities.

Given its economic status, Imperial Beach has a very tight budget for its first responders and has not been able to afford the safety equipment – especially for lifeguards -- that is needed given the worsening water pollution conditions they must work under. The investment in PPE requested in this application will help protect the health and safety of IB's important resources, its lifeguards and firefighters.

The SDSU researchers say the problem is an environmental justice issue as well, as border communities, often with limited economic resources, already have an increased risk of chronic diseases, which could put them at higher risk of complications due to these environmental hazards. IB and South Bay communities also already face increased pollution from other sources, such as from the vehicles idling at border crossings.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

“This study confirms what should be obvious, which is that San Diego’s health and community well-being is being seriously and actively harmed by years of inaction on this issue,” said Prebys Foundation CEO Grant Oliphant.

“The persistent health impacts greatly reduce the quality of life for the community,” said Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre.

PROJECT READINESS

The Project design included soliciting input from the IB Marine Safety Captain and Fire Chief on the top priority needs to address their employees’ health.

Quotes for all the PPE have been obtained and the PPE orders are ready to be placed immediately upon approval of the SDRC Board and the completion of the Grant Agreement. Additionally, SDRFF negotiated a 10% contribution level for the requested equipment even with the very tight IB budgets. IB will be responsible for the ongoing cleaning and maintenance of the PPE.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE

No permits are needed because this grant would be for the purchase of equipment and supplies.

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ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **KUMEYAAY DIEGUEÑO LAND CONSERVANCY
(INFORMATIONAL)**

San Diego River Conservancy Board Member, Emily Burgueno, will provide an overview of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy and discuss uses of tribal ecological knowledge to help manage land.

Presentation:

**Emily Burgueno, Chair of Kumeyaay Diegueño Land
Conservancy and Head Seed Keeper of the Iipay Nation of Santa
Ysabel**

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ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO PARKS AND
RECREATION UPDATES ON THE ENHANCED
INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING DISTRICT
(*INFORMATIONAL*)**

The County is exploring efforts to pursue an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District, which will help develop an alternate funding source for trail, infrastructure, and other improvements along the river corridor to help complete the San Diego River Trail and the San Diego River Park vision. This is a follow up to the November 9, 2023, presentation from County Parks.

Presentation:

**Crystal Benham, Resource Management Chief, County of San
Diego, Parks and Recreation**

**Lizzy Bendrick, Trails Program Manager, County of San Diego,
Parks and Recreation**

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ITEM: 11

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:

- Update on permits for the Conservancy's Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal and Restoration Program
- Social media update

Conservancy staff attended the follow events:

Second Annual State Leadership Summit
California Government Innovation Summit
California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force Meeting
Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee Meeting
Fire Safe Council of San Diego County meeting
Truth & Healing Council, sub-committee meetings

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ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is anticipated to be held in person on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, from 10:00 am to noon.

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ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT