

# 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, March 18, 2026**  
**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

## Meeting Locations

|   |   |
|---|---|
| San Diego County<br>Administration Center<br>1600 Pacific Highway, Room<br>302<br>San Diego, CA 92101 | Natural Resources Agency<br>HQ<br>715 P Street<br>20-105 (Farallon Room)<br>Sacramento, CA, 95814 |
|---|---|

Teleconference Line  
877-336-1831, Code 2199399

## 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 January 21, 2026, 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)**

**6. Health and Safety Report (INFORMATIONAL)**

**7. Tavern Road Evacuation Route Hazardous Fuels Reduction  
(ACTION)**

The proposed project, submitted by Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council, focuses on increasing wildfire safety along Tavern Road, a crucial evacuation route connected to key local infrastructure, including a fire station. The primary goal is to reduce wildfire risk by removing hazardous vegetation along the evacuation route and to increase community defensible space in Alpine. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$85,000 from Proposition 4.

**Presentation:**

Jason McBroom, Program Facilitator, Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council

Steven Taylor, Executive Director, Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council

Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 26-05

**8. Reducing Fire Fuel on the San Diego River (ACTION)**

The Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy project proposes to conduct fuel reduction on approximately 145 acres in the riparian areas of the San Diego River and its tributaries, including Los Coches Creek. These efforts will help reduce the risk of fires, protect lives and property, safeguard public lands, and benefit local wildlife and their native habitats. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$650,000 from Proposition 4.

**Presentation:**

Julie Turko, Executive Director, Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy

Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 26-06

**9. Proposition 4 Guidelines and Other Updates (ACTION)**

Proposition 4 was passed by voters on November 5, 2024. It made \$48,000,000 available to the San Diego River Conservancy to reduce the risks of climate change impacts on communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access subject to appropriation by the Legislature. The Legislature appropriated \$8 million of the funds to the Conservancy in budget years 2025-2026. This proposed action item is to consider and adopt guidelines to implement San Diego River Conservancy’s Proposition 4 (Prop 4) Nature-Based Solutions grant program. The guidelines, which are similar to previous Conservancy grant guidelines were posted on the Conservancy’s website on October 3, 2025, for a 30-day public comment period.

**Discussion:**

Hayley Peterson, DAG, Department of Justice  
Julia Richards, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy

Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 26-07

**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:

- Proposition 4 – Nature Based Solutions

Conservancy staff attended the following events & meetings:

2024 Climate Bond/ Proposition 4 meetings and site visits  
Climate Bond Program Coordination Team meeting  
California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force meeting  
Dept. of General Services meeting  
Meeting with the new City of Santee City Manager  
San Diego State University Research Foundation meeting  
Access Working Group - Natural Resources Agency meeting  
Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee meeting  
Fire Safe Council of Greater San Diego meeting  
Jamul Fire Safe Council meeting and tour  
San Diego Regional Fire Foundation meeting  
San Diego County Parks, TCT meeting

**11. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is anticipated to be held in person on Friday, May 22, 2026, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

**12. Adjournment**

**Accessibility**

If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Dustin Harrison at 619-390-0571 or [Dustin.Harrison@sdrc.ca.gov](mailto:Dustin.Harrison@sdrc.ca.gov).

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: **2**

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

The Board will consider adoption of the January 21, 2026, Board Meeting.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

## SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of January 21, 2026, Public Meeting  
(Draft Minutes for Approval on March 18, 2026)

CONSERVANCY Board Member, Ben Clay called the January 21, 2026, meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

### Item 1. Roll Call

#### Members Present

Joel Anderson Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District (Arrive 1:10pm)  
Stephen Benson Department of Finance  
Jennifer Campbell Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee (Arrive 1:04pm)  
Bryan Cash Natural Resources Agency  
Ben Clay, Chair Public at Large  
Ruth Hayward Public at Large  
Laura Koval City of Santee  
Jamie LaBrake Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy  
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  
Elsa Saxod Public at Large  
Gary Strawn San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Nicole Van Doren Department of Parks and Recreation

#### Absent

Raul Campillo Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7  
Rebecca Fris Wildlife Conservation Board

#### Staff Members Present

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

### Item 2. Approval of Minutes

Elsa Saxod moved for approval of September 17, 2025, minutes, and Phil Ortiz seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Bryan Cash, Stephen Benson, Nicole Van Doren, Ray Lennox, Glen Lubcke, Cody Petterson, Jamie LaBrake, Phil Ortiz, Laura Koval, Elsa Saxod (12-0-0)

### Item 3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Ben Clay welcomed Laura Koval from the City of Santee.

**Julia Richards** noted that no written comments were received in advance of the meeting today.

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

**Ben Clay** called on Gary Strawn.

**Gary Strawn** decided after 16 years, he'd had his time on the Waterboard. He'll be stepping down in October. As the year progresses, he will slowly step out of other duties including sitting on the Board of the San Diego River Conservancy. Gary stated he really enjoyed his time here. David Gibson, Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board will fill in.

**Ben Clay** thanked Gary for his service and stated his guidance has been invaluable over the years. Particularly about small streams and fishing. Ben appreciates Gary's knowledge and wisdom helping the Conservancy become more effective.

**Ruth Hayward** seconded and thanked Gary.

**Julia Richards** agreed with what had been said. Gary has helped forward and preserve the San Diego River as well as so many other causes in San Diego. Julia appreciates his work not just for the Conservancy Board, but the public at large. Gary is a true model citizen that helps take action for community issues. Julia thanked Gary.

**Ben Clay** talked about the groundbreaking of One Water Center at SDSU which is a unique property and function that hasn't been done anywhere else. It will be an onsite lab open to professors to conduct classes, test the water and develop strategies for keeping the streams and rivers as clean as possible. More importantly, knowing what's going on in that river.

It won't be much bigger than a couple of Connex boxes, but SDSU will have access negotiated with the City of San Diego. They will pay rent. Testing will be done at the site and it will be an opportunity for young people to solve water quality issues. He appreciates SDSU's involvement with this.

Several years ago, a professor approached him asking to test the water quality. That was the first MOU between SDRC and SDSU. Steve Weber was the president of SDSU at the time.

Ben also discussed Fire Safe Councils. They are landowners that live in the neighborhood and know the area. He learned a lot listening to the discussions. They work closely with the fire personnel in the region.

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

**Hayley Peterson** no report.

#### **Item 6. Health and Safety Report** (*INFORMATIONAL*)

**Cody Petterson** inquired about the Conservancy's investments during flooding. There were a series of storms earlier in the year. How did the trash collection device hold up, swift water rescue investments, any thoughts on those stormwater events?

**Julia Richards** responded during the January events, from Lakeside to San Diego, various

foundations and non-profits deploy their personal to pick up trash.

**Ben Clay** asked if the City of El Cajon installed catchment areas in parts of their system. He has gone near SDSU during storm events and the stormwater holding areas work. Both the lifeguard in San Diego and Tijuana River use hazmat suits to protect themselves when they enter the water.

**Senan Kachi** confirmed the Conservancy has a grant with El Cajon to install trash capture devices. A report was created just a year ago and they have been effective making sure trash does not flow downstream.

**Gary Strawn** commented during that time, monitoring sites near Mast Blvd. crested close to 10 feet. Next to Mission Gorge Road and Fashion Valley, to his knowledge, there was no infrastructure damage because it rises and drops quickly.

**Ben Clay** asked if there is an alarm system to notify residents when the water level rises. Giving them a heads-up would save lives and property. Down in Fashion Valley, cars get flooded so an alert system would be beneficial.

**Julia Richards** thanked Cody for his questions and offered to prepare a presentation to show the benefits of the Conservancy's investments.

#### **Item 7. Renovations for the City of El Cajon's Fire Station No. 7 (ACTION)**

**Julia Richards** today the Governing Board will consider 4 proposed projects for approval totaling \$3,338,371 from the Conservancy's Prop 4 wildfire funding. The remaining Wildfire and Forest Resilience proposals for Round 1 will be presented at the Conservancy's March Board meeting. Julia asked for questions.

The City of El Cajon proposes renovating Fire Station No. 7 to meet building and fire codes and improve design and functionality. The project includes a new apparatus bay, utility upgrades, energy-efficient systems, and facility expansion. These upgrades will increase capacity for staffing and equipment and improve response times. The total cost for the renovation is \$5,500,000, and the Conservancy recommends partial funding.

This project is located and benefits disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, vulnerable populations, and immigrant populations. The Conservancy staff met with the applicant, reviewed the proposal and conducted a site visit. The proposed project is supported by San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation and is consistent with the intent of Proposition 4. The proposed project is supported by two Conservancy program areas; Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources and Program 6 Expand the Organization's Capacity and Public Outreach. The proposed project is also aligned with California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and 6 approved state and local plans.

Additional information is located in the staff report, and if approved, funding will be provided through Proposition 4. Conservancy staff recommends approval of Resolution 26-01 to the City of El Cajon in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Julia introduced Senan Kachi, Associate Engineer with the City of El Cajon, Yazmin Arrellano, Director

of Engineering Services with the City of El Cajon, Graham Mitchell, City Manager, City of El Cajon and Bent Koch, Fire Chief with Heartland Fire and Rescue.

**Senan Kachi** thanked Julia. He recognized the project team members and Architect, Art Castro, Chief of Fire, Director of Engineer, and City Manager. Other members included the Heartland Fire and Rescued Design committee. They are firefighters of all levels that are part of the team. They have been instrumental in designing the best facility possible.

Station No. 7 is located in Fletcher Hills at 695 Tyrone Street. The 3,500 square foot structure was built in 1960 sitting on a quarter acre. Heartland Fire operates one fire engine from Station No.7 and typically stores one AMR ambulance in the back parking area. Three firefighters are always on duty currently. The station currently has one large room for sleeping quarters and one communal restroom, both of which are adjacent to the apparatus bay.

On the left, he showed the shared dormitory with seven beds. It lacks privacy and is far from current standards of San Diego County. On the right is the communal bathroom with one shower, two stalls and a locker. Same issues with privacy and no separation for male and female. The area has had minor upgrades over the years, but in general a lot of original features exist.

The kitchen has newer appliances, but overall dated and insufficient to serve the multiple shift changes coming through the station each day. The day room and lounge area is also adjacent to the apparatus bay with multiple doors that don't adequately seal the area off from the typical garage fumes. Looking closely, a barbeque on the patio area facing Fletcher Parkway is insufficient space for outdoor activities for the fire crews.

Finally, the existing apparatus bay has three feet of clearance between the turnout lockers and station No. 7 engine. This is the condition on both sides. From their observation, firefighters make the best of their situation with the sleeping, bath and kitchen areas; however, there is no workaround for the undersized bay. With the new engine on order, they will likely not be able to serve the community from this station. The City of El Cajon is grateful the Conservancy made the recent order possible.

Fire Station No.6 off Lexington Avenue was shown for reference. It is common practice to leave engine doors open for a quick entry to improve response times when calls come in. Leaving the doors open at Station No. 7 is not an option due to the narrow bay. The staff shown are part of the Heartland Fire design committee. The coordination took place over the last couple of years. They measured for the ideal clearance of the new station. One last photo of existing conditions at Station No. 7 was shown. AMR ambulance was at the rear of the station, usually out of service but may be in service as it makes its way around the building and up the slope. They want the apparatus at the ground level to improve response times, not loop around the building.

Through support of the El Cajon City Council, renovation of Station No. 7 was authorized using voter approved sales tax funds specific to public safety buildings in El Cajon. The two garage doors versus one currently will expand the station. In the short term, there will be one engine and one ambulance. Long-term planning shows there may be a need for two fire engines at Fire Station No. 7. The roof line is raised by several feet eliminating the narrow and low headroom conditions. The structural components of this project are from 1960 which do not meet current code. The concrete floor slabs in the bay will also be replaced with thicker sections. Senan showed a video of the proposed rendering of the exterior of the facility.

Some of the features shown included a security fencing, solar system, 72-hour back-up battery system, and the expanded L shape section at the rear. The floor plan will be just over 5,000 square feet. The red area is the two apparatus bays along with dedicated turnout locker room and gear washing areas. The blue staff quarters with 4 individual sleeping rooms, three full bathrooms, one of which is ADA compliant will have modernized office spaces. The green is the expanded outdoor patio and lastly the lower level gets an added workshop in addition to the existing fitness room.

El Cajon City Council approved the capitol improvement project to address Station No. 7 back in fiscal year 2022. The project was only budgeted with the remaining balance of voter approved Prop O funds - \$3.2 million. Total cost is estimated to be \$5.5 million. In addition to the \$3.2 million, El Cajon City Council is also considering further investment from City Reserves to make up the gap. This amount will be determined after they solicit co-construction bids.

El Cajon acquired their architect in late 2022 and they are on the cusp of 100% construction documents. They just recently submitted final plans to the building department, with anticipation to start construction later this year. Heartland Fire is preparing to temporarily reassign staff to nearby sites in La Mesa and El Cajon while under construction. He asked the Board questions.

**Ben Clay** asked are the female firefighters a part of the planning process.

**Senan Kachi** confirmed they are part of the planning committee.

**Phil Ortiz** thanked staff and City of El Cajon. He has toured the station and the engineers that drive the engine should be recommended for the space program because backing in those trucks is difficult. The Conservancy has been extraordinarily generous with the City of El Cajon. This Station is out of date and serves underserved communities. Heartland is one of the busiest stations in the state regarding calls per capita. This will help the firefighters. He appreciates the Board's consideration.

**Phil Ortiz moved for approval of Resolution 26-01, and Joel Anderson seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Bryan Cash, Stephen Benson, Nicole Van Doren, Ray Lennox, Glen Lubcke, Joel Anderson, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Jamie LaBrake, Phil Ortiz, Laura Koval, Elsa Saxod (14-0-0)**

#### **Item 8. Viejas' Proposal for a Wildland Type VI Fire Engine and Construct a Fire Engine Bay and Training Room (ACTION)**

**Julia Richards** the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians is in a remote area of San Diego's east county in the wildland urban interface serving the Capitan Grande, Viejas Reservations and the surrounding communities. The Viejas Fire Department is seeking funding to purchase a Type VI Fire Engine and to build an additional structure next to the fire station. This new building will include an apparatus bay with a training room including additional storage space.

The Conservancy staff met with the applicant, reviewed the proposal and conducted a site visit. The proposed project is supported by San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation, and consistent with the intent of Proposition 4. The proposed project is supported by two Conservancy program areas; Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources and Program 6 Expand the Organization's Capacity and Public Outreach. The proposed project is also aligned with California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and four approved state and other local plans.

Additional information is located in the staff report, and if approved, funding will be provided through Proposition 4. Conservancy staff recommends approval of Resolution 26-02 to Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians in the amount of \$650,000.

Julia introduced John Sengebusch, Fire Division Chief, Viejas Fire Department, Bob Pfohl, Fire Chief, Viejas Fire Department and Ray Teran, Resource Management Director, Viejas Tribal Government. Viejas will provide a presentation on the proposal and answer any questions.

**John Sengebusch** introduced himself as the division chief with the Viejas Fire Department. In 2006 the Fire Department was born. Tribal Council approved this for dedicated emergency medical services, wildland fire and safety services to surrounding community. They provide local, regional and statewide automatic and mutual aid. 2025 they responded to 13 different strike teams including the Eaton Fire. During that time, they had crews in San Diego County as well.

They have 22 full-time response personnel with six reserve firefighters. They operate one structure fire engine, a type III brush engine, Type VI engine, Type VI brush engine known as the Patrol 25 Crew, a water tender and two command staff vehicles. They see themselves as the gatekeepers for east county, touching three districts: Viejas Fire Department, entirely on the Cleveland National Forest. Adjacent surrounding them is the County of San Diego which falls under state responsibility areas.

Just to the northeast, they have Sill Hill which is one of the windiest places in the county. Wind reaches up to 100 miles per hour (mph), funneling to the Viejas corridor and reservation. The last few weeks, Santa Ana conditions have mild sustained winds anywhere from 25-45 mph which that is routine. Wind peaks at Sill Hill can be sustained at 50-60 mph through the reservation. Safety is paramount.

If they get on fires quickly and early, they can stop them from becoming larger conflagrations. Tribal Council recognizes the wildfire threat and has adopted fuel management practices. It is important to maintain exit ways, evacuation routes to get people out and resources in, during fire events. Defensible space around structures is part of their mitigation plan. They have a wildland crew that is dedicated to vegetation management and responding to fires.

Fire history includes, the 1970 Laguna, 2001 Viejas Fire, and 2003 Cedar Fire. The County of San Diego was one of the last counties in the state to have an organized fire department. The 2007 Witch Creek Fire helped lead to the formation of the County Fire Department. Descanso, Pine Valley, and Harbison Canyon are protected by fire engines 24/7. That marks a huge increase in service area. And finally, the 2018 West Fire.

The Viejas Fire Department is looking to spec, build, purchase and place in service a Type VI wildland fire engine with a complement of fire hose, tools and radios. It will be staffed 24/7/365. Many wildland engines are not staffed every day; they are crossed staffed by other apparatus. They want to construct an additional 1,850 square feet for existing fire station to encompass a training room, gym and apparatus bay sized to fit this piece of equipment. They want to integrate all these assets into fuel management and fire suppression programs.

Total projected cost is \$711,860. For the fire engine, \$415,000 with \$30,000 matching funds from Viejas. The training room/gym is \$235,000 with \$24,360 matching funds to cover the increase in construction cost. In kind administration match of \$7,500 to work on the grant. Total ask from the Conservancy is \$650,000 from Prop 4 funding.

John showed a picture of a Type VI Fire Engine which is a smaller more maneuverable vehicle. The timeline for developing specifications for the bid is in progress. Their goal is to move forward as fast as possible, assuming approval. February 2026 is when they are looking at awarding the contract. There is approximately a three-year build time. Type I engines take over 4 years to get. Architectural design and drawings have been completed for the building. The contractor stated it is a 120-day build time to get to 90% completion. January 2029 is when they expect delivery and acceptance of the apparatus and storage garage/training room.

**Jamie LaBrake** stated he is very honored to be present. Since he is from the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation and sits on the Tirbal Council, he knows how important fire serves are. Viejas is at the critical juncture. He offered John Sengebusch his business card and wanted to coordinate joint fire fighter training to build relationships.

**Joel Anderson** stated he lived through the Cedar Fire and would like to support his motion. As soon as he or his neighbors smell smoke they call within minutes and the Fire Departments are quick to respond. Last year over 200 fires were stopped before spreading to larger than 10 acres. The residents of east county are there to spot the fires before they spread.

**Ben Clay** with the improvement of fire services in east county, Ben thinks the County of San Diego is moving quicker in the back country.

**Jamie LaBrake** moved for approval of Resolution 26-02, and **Joel Anderson** seconded. Roll Call: **Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Bryan Cash, Stephen Benson, Nicole Van Doren, Ray Lennox, Glen Lubcke, Joel Anderson, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Jamie LaBrake, Phil Ortiz, Laura Koval, Elsa Saxod (14-0-0)**

#### **Item 9. Descanso Ranger District Wildfire Resilience and Community Defense (ACTION)**

**Julia Richards** stated the National Forest Foundation has proposed a project in partnership with the Cleveland National Forest to reduce hazardous vegetation targeting approximately 246 acres within the Descanso Ranger District. The Descanso District includes the headwaters for the San Diego and Sweetwater Rivers. The proposed activities include increasing defensible space, clearing understory vegetation, removing dead and dying trees and maintaining shaded fuel breaks.

The Conservancy staff met with the applicant, reviewed the proposal and conducted a site visit. The proposed project is supported by San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation, and consistent with the intent of Proposition 4. The proposed project is supported by 5 strategic program areas: Program 2 Support and Encourage Recreation, Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, Program 4 Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources, Program 5 Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, Program 6 Expand the Organization's Capacity and Public Outreach.

The proposed project is aligned with 9 state, local and federal plans. Additional information is located in the staff report, and if approved, funding would be provided through Proposition 4. Conservancy staff recommends approval of Resolution 26-03 to National Forest Foundation in the amount of \$538,496.

Julia introduced Brian Robey, Southern California Program Manager for the National Forest Foundation and Kyle Smith, Descanso District Ranger with Cleveland National Forest. They will provide a presentation on the proposal and answer any questions.

**Bryan Robey** introduced himself, shared the National Forest Foundations (NFF) proposal and discussed why these treatments are so critical right now, where they will occur, partners, budget and overall timeline of the project.

The National Forest Foundation is a congressionally chartered non-profit partner of the US Forest Service. They work to protect and enhance 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands nationwide. Their mission is focused on transforming American's love of nature into action for national forests across three pillars of impact: watershed restoration wildfire resilience and recreation enhancement. Through these pillars they support the forest service by providing partnership funding and project delivery.

The proposed project falls under the vegetation management and fire safety category located in the Descanso Ragner district of Cleveland National Forest. Many heavily destructive fires shows a trend, especially in southern California of large wildfires caused by decades of fuel and fire suppression.

High fuel loads increase risk of high severity fires. These fires are called stand replacing fires that burn so hot and intensive they change ecosystem types making it hard to recover. With these projects they want to manage vegetation and enhance community protection and improve evacuation route safety.

The first category of treatment they propose is road brushing along key access routes. Treatment will focus on 55 acres of high priority road throughout the district. Treatment will increase visibility, evacuation safety, emergency response times and firefighter mobility in the event of an incident.

Priority roads are Cedar Creek, Los Pinos, Los Pinos Lookout, Tule Springs, Westside and Westside Spur, in coordination with the Forest Service.

The next category focuses on community defense. They are proposing two 300' strategic fuel breaks; one located around the community of Pine Valley which is 86 acres and the other around the Community of Alpine which is 105 acres. These treatments are designed to reduce the risk to life, property and infrastructure as well as improve firefighter and public safety. A map of project locations and high fire hazard severity zones was shown adjacent to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. This project is important for equity and resiliency standpoint.

They are working with several partners, including Cleveland National Forest for implementation. They have an extensive list of vegetation management contactors they will be engaging for this project. Also, the state's Wildfire Resilience Taskforce and local conservation corps. NFF will serve as project manager providing coordination contract oversight and quality and performance assurance.

Total funding request is \$538,496, including subcontract for road brushing and community defense projects in Pine Valley and Alpine and NFF project management and indirect costs. They have secured matching funds in the amount of \$40,500 to go towards implementation.

The timeline for the project is as follows: planning is complete. Forest service has completed NEPA, and NFF has requested an exemption of CEQA under Governor Newsom's executive order. They have previous experience with CALFIRE that NFF has managed. Once funding is awarded, they will begin procurement immediately and look to award a contract by April 2026. They expect completion by August 2027.

Finally, they are proposing 246 acres of high priority wildfire resilience project. These projects are aligned with SDRC's mission and directly protect at risk and disadvantaged communities. These treatments are scalable, cost effective and result in real wildfire benefits to communities. He gave out his contact information.

**Joel Anderson** moved for approval of Resolution 26-03, and **Dr. Jennifer Campbell** seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: **Ben Clay, Andrea Scharffer, Nicole Van Doren, Ray Lennox, Glen Lubcke, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Ruth Hayward, Emily Burgueno, Dustin Trotter, Elsa Saxod (14-0-0)**

#### **Item 10. San Diego River Watershed – Canyon Wildfire Resilience Project (ACTION)**

**Julia Richards** stated San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL) proposes a fuel treatment project across approximately 60 acres in Shepherd and Rueda Canyons. These two canyons are in the City of San Diego's Open Space Division's Brush Management Zone. These high-risk areas require defensible space around homes and buildings to reduce wildfire risk and to protect life and property.

The Conservancy staff met with the applicant, reviewed the proposal and conducted a site visit. The proposed project is supported by the San Diego River Conservancy's enabling legislation and is consistent with the intent of Proposition 4. It is supported by three Conservancy program areas: Program 2 Support and Encourage Recreation, Program 3 Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, Program 5 Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance. The proposed project is aligned with 8 state and local plans, including the CA wildfire and Forest Resilience Action plan.

Additional information is located in the staff report, and if approved, funding would be provided through Proposition 4. Conservancy staff recommends approval of Resolution 26-04 to San Diego Canyonlands in the amount of \$649,875.

Julia introduced Clayton Tschudy, Executive Director, San Diego Canyonlands. He will provide a presentation on the proposal and answer any questions.

**Clayton Tschudy** thanked Julia and the Governing Board for continuing their long partnership. The SDCL wildfire resilience project is focused on the canyon open space area under the Open Space Division of the City of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department. The Canyons are adjacent to Mission Trails Regional Park. The brush management zone is between the urban and suburban areas of Tierrasanta and the wildland urban interface.

This project is intended to be strategic for reducing wildfire risk from canyons to homes. He showed pictures of the canyons which are within 1 mile of a disadvantaged community and designated high fire hazard severity zones. Their work will implement city and county fire code in Zone 2. This work is important because the City struggles with funding this extensive work. There are over 20,000 acres of open space, much of it is within the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) area encompassing BMZ. They partner with Open Space and hold a Master Right of Entry (ROE) therefore do not need a separate permit.

They utilize specialized skills for this. It is not the same as brush management in the backcountry. They will treat just under 60 acres of BMZ in zone 2 under City of San Diego Open Space oversight. The City does quality control checks on their work, protecting 548 acres of open space. This work is part of their

workforce development. They support 25-40 people with full-time benefited work and receiving on the job training.

BMZ is both removal of woody brush to reduce fuel and thinning, lifting and spacing to remove fire ladders and to prevent fire from moving with fuel through the interface. SDCL also creates a mosaic pattern to capture embers. If a fire starts in the canyon, it generally moves uphill. Clearing this space for a fire break would allow fire to move embers into neighborhoods. Vegetation clearing is important for reducing ember flow, fire risk and protect habitat. The cover that is left from 50% native shrubs left in place also helps prevent introduction of flashy weeds that comes from the developed land and moves into adjacent open space.

SDCL priority treats flash fuels, dead and dying wood, non-native shrubs and native shrubs which are pruned back to 50%. They are contributing \$166,000 to this project and asking the Conservancy to fund at \$649,875 for total project cost of \$815,875.

This project requires them to conduct protocol surveys for endangered species in compliance with MSCP and endangered species act. There are access problems with this project. They need to stage a half mile away, maybe further and carry all the brush on their backs. It is a complicated process in terms of compliance perspective as well as work flow.

This is part of their larger regional wildfire resilience initiative at SDCL. Five years ago, working closely with Conservancy staff, SDCL did its first major brush management project funded by SDRC. That project kicked off a whole initiative for SDCL. They are now a regional brush management team. They have 17 service partners including agencies, conservancies across the entire county and growing. They have become an expert habitat friendly urban brush management team. That is largely due to the support and belief of SDRC in SDCL helping to kick start that project.

They have advanced this work in many ways including policy to improve habitat quality of the work as well as working closely and focusing on community defensible space. They have moved well over 100 employees for on-the-job training doing this type of work over the last few years. Many employees went to work for ranger programs, police work, and wildfire work. He thanked the Conservancy for what they have done to SDCL.

**Ben Clay** asked about the helicopter palm removals. The community loved seeing that happen.

**Clayton Tschudy** confirmed and offered to invite him to the next helicopter palm removal. There is a crowd. Their workforce training focuses on folks who do not have a degree of background in environmental management. They recruit from underserved communities and hope to move people from educational programs to better paying jobs and careers in the industry.

**Dr. Jennifer Campbell** thanked Clayton for the presentation. The City of San Diego is delighted SDCL is helping with this and protected Mission Trails Regional Park. It is important to understand the wildland urban interface.

**Laura Koval** asked if SDCL worked alongside Santee Lakes as one of their projects to clear vegetation out? That area is always in need. It is very expensive work carrying the palm trees out on their backs.

**Julia Richards** stated there were multiple organizations working there including, private contractors, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County. That was over ten years ago.

**Clayton Tschudy** responded they did not work in that area but would love to.

**Cody Petterson** stated, he does not like the term “treatment” because it infers something kind is happening to the landscape. Treatment is usually mastication or type converting native shrubland into flashy invasive grasses. In SDCL’s case this is treatment. Clayton was the chair of the San Diego Regional biodiversity working group which worked on the County’s native plant policy. It was ultimately supported by Supervisor Anderson. SDCL created a nationwide model by expanding habitat and at the same time controlling woody fire fuels and creating landscape that’s attractive to constituents.

Cody would love for the Conservancy to support Clayton’s work and see how the Conservancy can encourage the model SDCL has developed to treat the landscape. Both as habitat and more fire resilient than invasive grasses. Often times, type conversion to grasses makes you addicted to the treatment because the fire risk increases. Cody fully supports this and encourages the model SDCL has developed.

**Clayton Tschudy** thanked Cody and stated he has a close working relationship with the open space division. They are created new best management practices, so of those are new treatments. He is happy to share information with the Conservancy.

**Dr. Jennifer Campbell** moved for approval of Resolution 26-04, and **Jamie LaBrake** seconded. Roll Call: **Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Bryan Cash, Stephen Benson, Nicole Van Doren, Ray Lennox, Glen Lubcke, Joel Anderson, Cody Petterson, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Jamie LaBrake, Phil Ortiz, Laura Koval, Elsa Saxod (14-0-0)**

#### **Item 11. Executive Officer’s Report (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)**

**Julia Richards** the 2026 Workplan was included in the Board Book. The plan outlines 33 current projects and 6 proposals for the governing board to consider. The remaining items will come before the Board in March. Majority of projects fall under Program 3 Preserve and Protect Natural Resources. They also offer multi benefits such as climate and wildfire resilience. More from Proposition 4, 2024 Climate Bond. Currently the Conservancy has \$8 million available for Round 1. On December 39 Concept proposals were submitted to SDRC for the Nature-Based Solutions allocation. The total requested amount was approximately \$51 million, leveraging approximately \$79 million. Over 50% of the proposals directly benefit DAC/SDAC and vulnerable populations. Letters inviting full applications will be sent out at the end of January. Full applications will be due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional rounds of funding will be held every other year until funds are expended.

**Jamir LaBrake** stated it is an honor to be amongst everyone building a safer San Diego together.

#### **Item 12. Next Meeting**

**Ben Clay** thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the County Administrative Building. The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 11:36 am

#### **Item 13. Adjournment**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

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 March 18, 2026**

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 March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 5

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

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY (*INFORMATIONAL*)

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **TAVERN ROAD EVACUATION ROUTE  
HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION (ACTION)**

The proposed project, submitted by Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council, focuses on increasing wildfire safety along Tavern Road, a crucial evacuation route connected to key local infrastructure, including a fire station. The primary goal is to reduce wildfire risk by removing hazardous vegetation along the evacuation route and to increase community defensible space in Alpine. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$85,000 from Proposition 4.

**Presentation:**

Jason McBroom, Program Facilitator Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council

Steven Taylor, Executive Director, Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council

Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 26-05

**Resolution No: 26-05**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$85,000 FROM  
PROPOSITION 4 TO ALPINE/VIEJAS FIRE SAFE COUNCIL TO CONDUCT HAZARDOUS  
FUELS REMOVAL ALONG A PRIMARY EVACUATION ROUTE**

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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 Consortium areas; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 4 was approved by voters on November 5, 2024, for the purposes of helping communities avoid and recover from the impacts of wildfire, flood, drought, or other extreme weather events, and help restore and protect natural systems; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy was allocated \$25,000,000 under Proposition 4, "Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024" with funds made available by Public Resources Code section 91520, subdivision (m), to improve forest health and protect communities from wildfire; 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 Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for a grant to conduct hazardous fuels removal on a primary evacuation route, approximately 11 acres, along Tavern Road in the Alpine community (Project); and

WHEREAS, San Diego River Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$85,000 to implement the Project; 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 Proposition 4.
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 \$85,000 (Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars) to implement 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 March 18, 2026. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 26-05 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: Bryan Cash                         |      |      |           |
| DOF: Stephen Benson                      |      |      |           |
| CADFW: Glen Lubcke                       |      |      |           |
| Dr. Jennifer Campbell, SD Mayor Designee |      |      |           |
| Joel Anderson, County Supervisor         |      |      |           |
| Raul Campillo, Vice Chair                |      |      |           |
| Ben Clay, Chair                          |      |      |           |
| Ruth Hayward                             |      |      |           |
| J. Cody Petterson                        |      |      |           |
| Jamie LaBrake                            |      |      |           |
| Elsa Saxod                               |      |      |           |
| DPR Designee, Ray Lennox                 |      |      |           |
| DPR Designee, Adams                      |      |      |           |
| Laura Koval                              |      |      |           |
| Phil Ortiz                               |      |      |           |

# **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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## **Staff Recommendation SDRC Resolution 26-05**

March 18, 2026

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to provide up to \$85,000.00 to Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council (FSC) to conduct critical fuels reduction on approximately 11 acres along Tavern Road to protect the primary evacuation route for residents living in the rural area and unincorporated community of Alpine and the Viejas Reservation in the County of San Diego County (Project).

**LOCATION:** Tavern Road is a north-south collector road designated as a primary evacuation route by the Alpine/Viejas FSC Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). It runs approximately 2 miles perpendicular to Interstate 8, which bisects Alpine and connects Viejas Reservation, which is less than 5 miles to the east, in San Diego County.

**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 wildfire and forest resilience including fire prevention and suppression, specifically as follows:

**To Alpine/Viejas Fire Safe Council, the sum of \$85,000.00 (Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars) to use as follows:**

- Conduct critical fuels reduction along 1 mile of Tavern Road, targeting approximately 11 acres in Alpine, to create safe ingress and egress routes for the public and responders (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.
2. The proposed Project is consistent with the intent of Proposition 4 (2024 Climate Bond).
3. The proposed Project is consistent with the guidelines for the Conservancy's grant program.

# **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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## **BACKGROUND:**

Fire has had devastating impacts on Alpine and surrounding communities. The terrain, overgrown vegetation and dry weather pose high fire risks and challenges for wildfire response. These conditions in east San Diego County are further exacerbated when communities are situated in open space near the wildland urban interface. For example, since 1970, eight significant fires swept through the area with a combined fire footprint of more than 700,000 acres, decimating 3,941 homes and killing 30 individuals.

In response to the wildfire threat, the Alpine Fire Protection District, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and Alpine community members joined together to form the Alpine/Viejas FSC. This community-led volunteer group ensures residents of Alpine respond efficiently during wildland fires and know where to go.

Alpine/Viejas FSC adopted their CWPP in 2023. As part of their evacuation plan, certain roads are designated as primary evacuation routes. These major roads have approved evacuation signs posted on them. In the event a primary evacuation route is obstructed, alternates have also been designated. Furthermore, to create more resilient defensible space, local ordinances require 20' clearance maintained on both sides of a fire access road. Maintaining an effective fuel modification zone slows the rate and intensity of advancing wildfire.

The key priorities for maintaining evacuation access for residents and visitors to Alpine include prioritizing education about the community's evacuation plan, working with San Diego County and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to maintain roadside brushing, and encouraging homeowners to comply with all roadside clearing codes. Through various fuels treatment along evacuation corridors, the Alpine/Viejas FSC helps safeguard the Alpine and surrounding communities against wildfire.

## **PROJECT NEED:**

Eastern San Diego County and the community of Alpine are within the wildland-urban interface zone between the City of El Cajon, Lakeside and the foothills of the Cuyamaca mountains. The area is located in an overgrown area not cleared since the 1953 Dehesa Fire and the 1970 Laguna Fire burned through this area. If a fire were to occur, residents would need to evacuate immediately with limited exit routes and the potential of traffic congestion. The proposed project will decrease fuel in an area that is severely at risk due to threat of a fire caused by roadside ignition or other fire occurrences in the area.

Tavern Road is a primary evacuation route and provides safe egress for community members. The amount of overgrown vegetation and ignition potential of invasive species warrants biomass reduction along this evacuation corridor. Due to the location of the road, its proximity to town, topography and excess growth, this area exceeds the qualification for critical fuels reduction. Roadside fires are common during low humidity days, and by reducing highly combustible fuels in the area to increase fuel breaks along evacuation routes, the potential for evacuation corridors being obstructed is reduced.

Alpine/Viejas FSC is seeking financial assistance to fund critical fuels reduction in Alpine, along Tavern Road which is a primary evacuation route for people in the County of San

## SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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Diego. This project is supported by the Alpine/Viejas FSC Board of Directors, as well as individual homeowners adjacent to the Project.

### Photos 2 and 3. Overgrown Vegetation Along Tavern Road.



### PROJECT SUMMARY:

This Project seeks to protect lives by ensuring safe evacuation routes. Tavern Road is a key freeway access point, connecting with West Victoria Drive and Arnold Way to the north, Alpine Boulevard to the east, and South Grade Road to the south of Interstate 8. The Project area includes critical infrastructure, including the local fire station.

Wildfire risk will be reduced by removing ladder fuels from the oak canopy and eliminating invasive species. The evacuation route is currently overgrown with dense, continuous fuels near residential areas. The goal is to minimize the risk of rapid spreading wildfires.

Work will be conducted on 17 privately owned parcels. All trees will be limbed up to a height of 6 to 10 feet, and ladder fuels, dead, and diseased trees will be removed. Native plants will be trimmed to 6 to 18 inches above ground, with root structures left intact to prevent soil disturbance. Trash and waste will be collected from waterways and roadside embankments using roll-off dumpsters.

All cut biomass will be mulched on-site for long-term weed suppression or disposed of through composting or landfill. Large items will be transported to the dump. Pacific Biological Services, Inc., will manage the habitat by conducting biological surveys prior to manual or mechanical removal. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County will supply specialized chipping equipment. A maintenance and monitoring plan will be developed to schedule ongoing debris and vegetation removal to prevent future wildfire hazards.

Vegetation will be removed by mowing, cutting, and trimming approximately 11 acres along one mile of Tavern Road heading south. Defensible space will be established within 100 feet of structures in the work area, with additional structures beyond this zone considered as needed.

Photo monitoring will be conducted before and after work on each property. Trash

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

removal and cleanup will be completed at each site. Habitat management will include manual or mechanical removal of regrowth.

A maintenance and monitoring plan will be created to schedule ongoing removal of vegetation and debris, preventing accumulation and future fire hazards. The Project aims to maintain defensible space through targeted fuel reduction, taking into account the area's proximity to town, topography, and excessive growth.

**Map 1.** Map of Tavern Rd. Evacuation Route from the 2023 Alpine/Viejas FSC CWPP



**DELIVERABLES:**

- Photo monitoring before and after Project implementation
- Maintenance and monitoring plan
- Inventory of trees, plants and native brush
- Measurements of chipped fuels removed
- Quarterly request for disbursements, progress reports and Final Report
- Debris removal and trash cleanup metrics

**Table 1.** Estimated Budget and Anticipated Schedule

| Task #            | Description   | Amount             | Schedule                  |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Implementation | To conduct critical fuels reduction on approximately 11 acres along Tavern Road, a primary evacuation route | \$85,000.00        | Throughout the grant term |
|                   | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$85,000.00</b> |                           |

**PROJECT FINANCING:** The Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$85,000.00 for the implementation of the proposed Project. The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is Proposition 4.

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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**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 2024-2028.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE FUNDING SOURCE:** Proposition 4 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.

## **PROPOSITION 4 - MEANINGFUL AND DIRECT BENEFITS**

- Benefits disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, or vulnerable communities
  - Two Tribal governments from the Kumeyaay Nation are located in Alpine (Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians)
- Improve ecosystem services and health of open space and natural areas by removal of invasive non-native plants
- Wildfire prevention and risk is reduced by removal of hazardous fuel loads and ladder fuels caused by overgrown vegetation

## **ALIGNMENT WITH PLANS AND PRIORITIES**

### **A. 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 in the watershed.

### **B. 2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California**

Goal 1: Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems.

### **C. Safeguarding California – California's Climate Adaption Strategy**

Promotes management activities to reduce the risk of fire.

### **D. California's 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan**

Supports Forest fuels reduction, understory clearing, restoration activities.

**E. Governor's Executive Orders B-52-18** Support the state's resilience to wildfire and other climate impacts, and **N-05-19** Government will take all possible actions to protect life, property, and forests from deadly megafires, and will do so with an urgency that matches the scope of the threat.

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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**F. Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency (March 1, 2025)**

Directs agencies to take immediate steps to expedite fuels reduction projects.

**G. County of San Diego 2023 Consolidated Fire Code**

Sec. 2808.5 Combustible vegetation control

Sec. 4907.5 Fuel modification.

**H. County of San Diego Defensible Space for Fire Protection Ordinance**

**I. Alpine Fire Protection District Strategic Plan**

Goal 1. Reduce the possibility of damage and losses to existing assets, particularly people, critical facilities/infrastructure due to structural fire/wildfire

**J. Alpine Fire Protection District Defensible Space Ordinance #2023-02**

Sec. IV. Defensible Space Requirements

**K. Alpine/Viejas Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Section VII Evacuation Planning. Identifying key corridors in and out of a community – as well as temporary safe refuge areas – is essential to being prepared for evacuation.

**L. Senate Bill 190 Dodd. Fire safety: building standards: defensible space program**

Defensible Space inspections. The community of Alpine has 2 recognized Firewise USA in San Diego County. Alpine Fire Protection District also has the only Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist recognized through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in southern California.

### **BENEFITS**

The proposed Project aims to enhance fire protection for vulnerable populations in Alpine and surrounding unincorporated areas of San Diego County, while also providing various community benefits, including a primary evacuation route.

By reducing highly combustible fuels in the creek area, the risk of obstructing these evacuation corridors is lessened. Besides the primary goal of saving lives, this Project also protects property and preserves the environment by reducing the risk and intensity of wildfires. For many homeowners, undertaking such work on their own is not financially feasible.

Additionally, removing dense and overgrown invasive species from the watercourse will improve natural flood conveyance and enhance water quality. The Project will similarly have positive side effects, such as reducing the presence of homeless encampments, which in turn improves visibility and safety.

If funded, this Project will increase the continuation of hazardous fuels removal and increase overall fuel breaks, decrease fuel in an area that is severely at risk due to threat of a fire caused by roadside starts or fire occurrence in the area.

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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### **PROJECT READINESS**

Applicants identified 17 property owners who have provided signed Right-of-Entry forms (ROEs) for 10 years to allow Project access. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place with Caltrans for shoulder mowing and a Right of Way permit is in place with County of San Diego, Department of Public Works for brush clearing along Tavern Road shoulder.

Each parcel has an express site plan to address proper methods for fuel removal. The Alpine/Viejas FSC is spearheading this Project. Fire Protec will act as the qualified responsible party, consistent with the Secretarial Exemption. All legal owners of the 17 parcels have signed letters of support. Defensible space inspections will be conducted annually. All businesses post work will continue to maintain the area.

### **PERMIT COMPLIANCE**

Alpine/Viejas FSC has applied for a Secretarial Exemption to suspend state statutes and regulations for wildfires which is consistent with the Governor's March 1, 2025, State of Emergency Proclamation (Proclamation).

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **REDUCING FIRE FUEL ON THE SAN DIEGO  
RIVER (*ACTION*)**

The Lakeside's River Park Conservancy project proposes to conduct fuel reduction on approximately 145 acres in the riparian areas of the San Diego River and its tributaries, including Los Coches Creek. These efforts will help reduce the risk of fires, protect lives and property, safeguard public lands, and benefit local wildlife and their native habitats. Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$650,000 from Proposition 4.

**Presentation:**

**Julie Turko, Executive Director, Lakeside's River Park  
Conservancy**

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 26-06**

**Resolution No: 26-06**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$650,000 FROM PROPOSITION 4  
TO LAKESIDE'S RIVER PARK CONSERVANCY TO REMOVE HAZARDOUS FUELS  
ALONG THE SAN DIEGO RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES**

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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, Proposition 4 was approved by voters on November 5, 2024, for the purposes of helping communities avoid and recover from the impacts of wildfire, flood, drought, or other extreme weather events, and help restore and protect natural systems; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy was allocated \$25,000,000 under Proposition 4, "Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024" with funds made available by Public Resources Code section 91520, subdivision (m), to improve forest health and protect communities from wildfire; 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 target removal of hazardous fuel loads on approximately 145 acres along the San Diego River and its tributaries (Project); and

WHEREAS, San Diego River Conservancy staff is recommending \$650,000 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.

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 Proposition 4
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 \$650,000 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand 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 March 18, 2026. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 26-06 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: Bryan Cash                         |      |      |           |
| DOF: Stephen Benson                      |      |      |           |
| CADFW: Glen Lubcke                       |      |      |           |
| Dr. Jennifer Campbell, SD Mayor Designee |      |      |           |
| Joel Anderson, County Supervisor         |      |      |           |
| Raul Campillo, Vice Chair                |      |      |           |
| Ben Clay, Chair                          |      |      |           |
| Ruth Hayward                             |      |      |           |
| J. Cody Petterson                        |      |      |           |
| Jamie LaBrake                            |      |      |           |
| Elsa Saxod                               |      |      |           |
| DPR Designee: Ray Lennox                 |      |      |           |
| DPR Designee: Adams                      |      |      |           |
| Laura Koval                              |      |      |           |
| Phil Ortiz                               |      |      |           |

# **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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## **Staff Recommendation SDRC Resolution 26-06**

March 18, 2026

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to provide up to \$650,000.00 to Lakeside's River Park Conservancy (LRPC) to remove hazardous fuel loads on and maintain approximately 145 acres of overgrown vegetation, primarily invasives, to reduce the risk and potential of wildfires in the unincorporated community of Lakeside.

**LOCATION:** Lakeside is located approximately 18 miles northeast of the City of San Diego where State Route 52 terminates at State Route 67 north to San Vicente and east to El Capitan Reservoir in San Diego County.

**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 wildfire and forest resilience including fire prevention and suppression, specifically as follows:

**To Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, the sum of \$650,000.00 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) to use as follows:**

- Conduct hazardous fuels reduction on approximately 145 acres along the San Diego River and its tributaries in the community of Lakeside, County of San Diego (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:

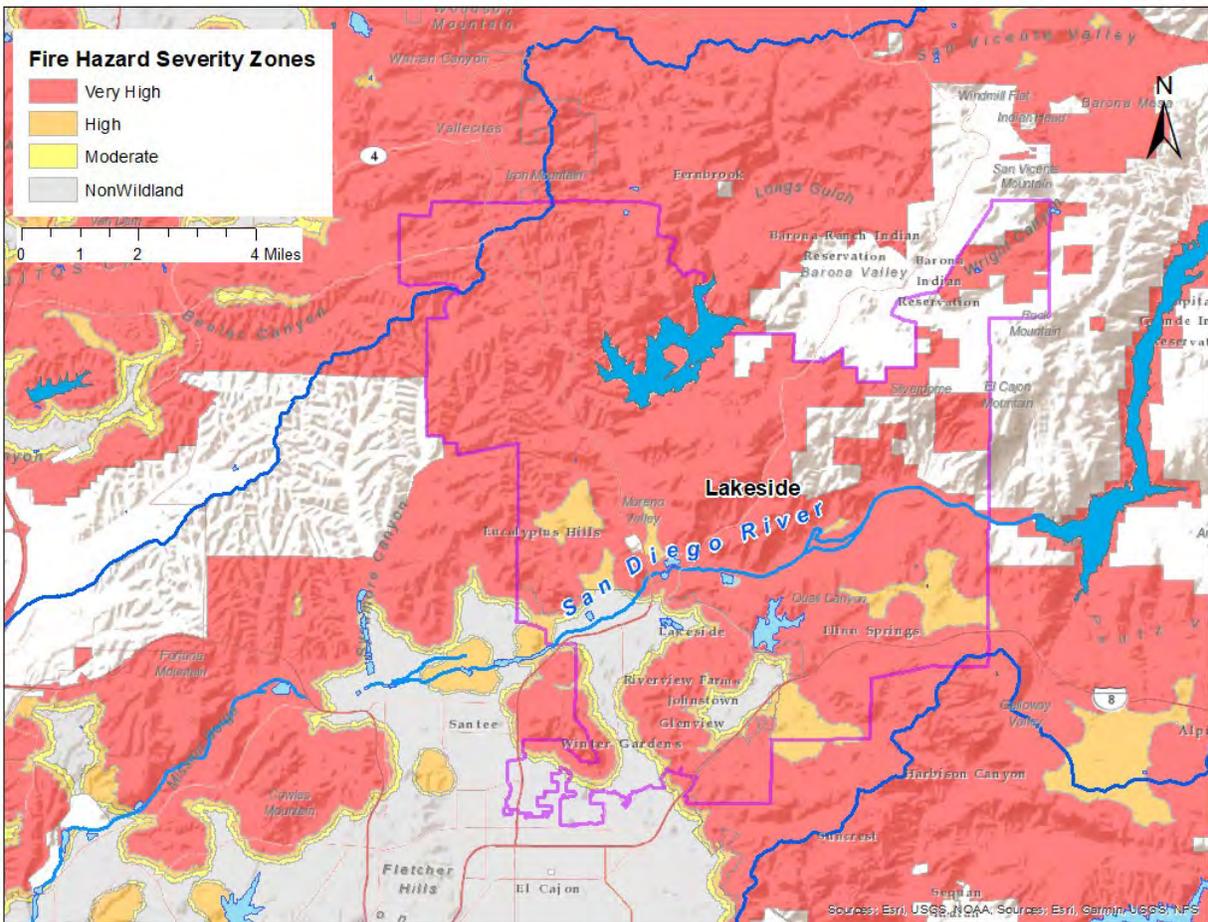
1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Diego River Conservancy Act, including Section 32649.
2. The proposed Project is consistent with the intent of Proposition 4 (2024 Climate Bond).
3. The proposed Project is consistent with the guidelines for the Conservancy's Direct Grant program.

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

## PROJECT NEED:

This area of the San Diego River watershed is surrounded by land identified as “Very High” by CALFIRE’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps in both the local and state responsibility areas. Flammable vegetation in riverbeds can serve as a wildfire vector by providing an unbroken line of highly flammable vegetation. The State of California recognizes that "more frequent, larger, high-severity wildfires threaten communities throughout California" because of neglected vegetation management.

**Map 1.** Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Local & State Responsibility Area)



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, 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 fuel-management activities.” There are many rural pockets in the hills of east County with a single road for egress and ingress, and this project can help improve access for first responders

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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and evacuees along and across the river in the event of a fire.

The proposed Project is designed to support community risk reduction and help property owners in the San Diego River watershed remove highly flammable plants, to protect the natural environment and life, health, and property. Removal of fire and ladder fuels improve habitat for native plant and animal species in this ecosystem.

The community of Lakeside contains specific census tracts and population segments that are considered low-income and include vulnerable populations. While the community has a median household income, it also features significant localized poverty and health-related risks. The area faces moderate disaster risk, with significant threats identified, including a high risk of air pollution for sensitive groups.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The proposed Project will manage vegetation on approximately 145 acres of private property to reduce fuel loads, remove invasive species, improve emergency access, and create defensible space. Targeted East County neighborhoods include Eucalyptus Hills, Winter Gardens, and El Monte Valley. LRPC has secured Right of Entry (ROE) agreements with property owners and will add new agreements as the project advances.

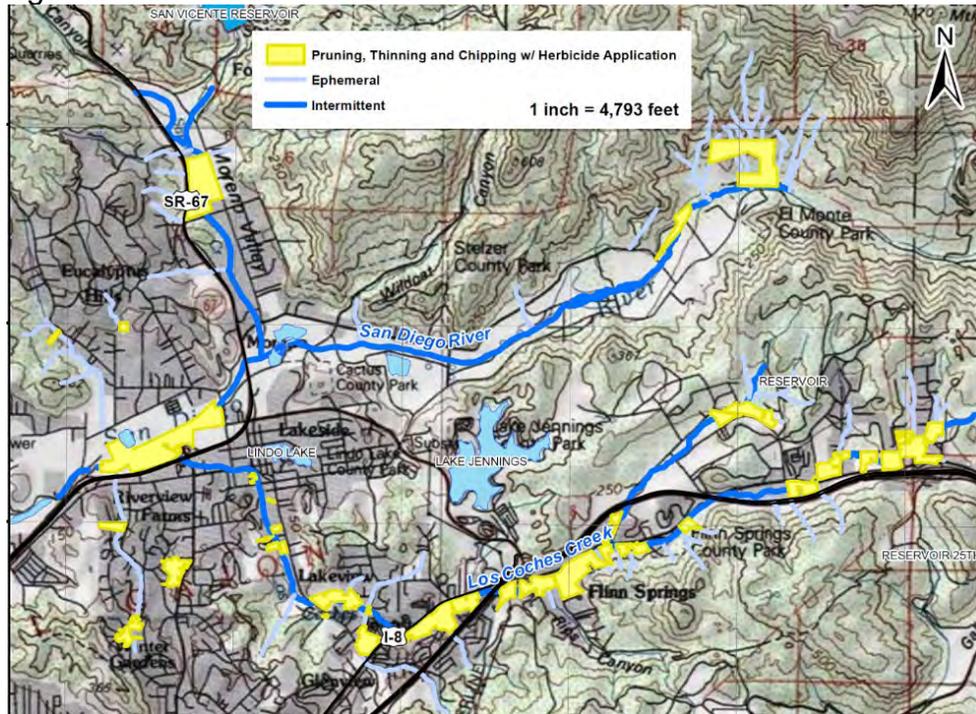
LRPC targeted areas include Los Coches Creek, Oak Creek, San Vicente Creek, and the San Diego River. Treatment areas will be prioritized based on available resources. LRPC will work with property owners to reduce wildfire risk through a streamline approach. Fire risk reduction activities include pruning low branches, clearing dead vegetation and debris, chipping material for mulch, ensuring clear road access, and advising property owners on fire-resilient landscaping. The crew will prioritize areas with dead trees, dense dry brush, and overgrown vegetation near homes or structures with limited emergency access. Work will proceed in phases from east to west within the grant period, enhancing community defensible space and creating property-specific fire breaks.

### **GOALS:**

- Assist river property owners in managing wildfire risk in east County.
- Reduce fire fuel on targeted properties, documenting progress with before and after photos and by measuring the weight of vegetation removed.
- Obtain ROEs to re-treat sites where vegetation removal has occurred.
- Implement a follow-up spray program to prevent and control further invasive species.

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Map 2. Target Treatment Areas in Lakeside



## 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 quicker 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. A progress report will accompany each invoice and request for disbursement with list of assessor parcel numbers (APNs) monitored and treated.
4. Pre- and post- photo monitoring of all sites to be included in the Final Report.

# SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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**Table 1.** Estimated Budget and Anticipated Schedule

| Task #       | Description                           | Amount           | Schedule                  |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1            | Administration and project management | \$150,000        | Throughout the grant term |
| 2            | Implementation                        | \$425,000        |                           |
| 3            | Indirect Costs (up to 12%)            | \$75,000         |                           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                       | <b>\$650,000</b> |                           |

**PROJECT FINANCING:** The Conservancy staff recommends funding in the amount of \$650,000.00 for the implementation of the proposed Project. The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is Proposition 4.

**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 2024-2028.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE FUNDING SOURCE:** Proposition 4 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.

**PROPOSITION 4 - MEANINGFUL AND DIRECT BENEFITS**

- Benefits disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, or vulnerable communities
  - Lakeside is in East San Diego County where 10% of people live in poverty, and LRPC is within walking distance of a disadvantaged community.
- Improve ecosystem services and health of open space and natural areas by removal of invasive non-native plants
- Wildfire prevention and risk is reduced by removal of hazardous fuel loads and ladder fuels caused by overgrown vegetation

**ALIGNMENT WITH PLANS AND PRIORITIES**

**A. 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 in the watershed.

**B. 2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California**

Goal 1: Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems.

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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### **C. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment**

Supports local adaptation strategy and resilience, fuels reduction to mitigate risk of fire and improve forest health, and protection of the state's most vulnerable populations and communities.

### **D. Safeguarding California – California's Climate Adaption Strategy**

Promotes management activities to reduce the risk of fire.

### **E. Governor's Executive Orders B-52-18** Support the state's resilience to wildfire and other climate impacts, and **N-05-19** Government will take all possible actions to protect life, property, and forests from deadly megafires, and will do so with an urgency that matches the scope of the threat.

### **F. Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency (March 1, 2025)**

Directs agencies to take immediate steps to expedite fuels reduction projects.

### **G. San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan**

Supports healthy ecosystems and improve or restore the condition of landscapes and biological communities. Such practices may include brush/forest management for wildfire risk reduction.

### **H. Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), County of San Diego Subarea Plan (1997)**

Discusses wildfire and invasive species as a potential risk to protected species.

### **I. County of San Diego 2023 Consolidated Fire Code**

Sec. 2808.5 Combustible vegetation control

Sec. 4907.5 Fuel modification.

### **J. County of San Diego Defensible Space for Fire Protection Ordinance**

## **BENEFITS**

Wildfire prevention allows habitats to remain intact. By working with property owners to create fire-resilient landscapes, LRPC will help protect native habitats as well as private property. Wildfires degrade water quality and cause erosion in areas without vegetation to hold the soil. The proposed Project seeks to protect both natural and man-made resources including tribal lands, reduces fire risk, protects habitat, and preserves the beauty of the San Diego River watershed. Invasive plant removal opens blocked waterways and allows native vegetation to recruit in open areas. The San Diego River is a biological corridor for wildlife, and maintaining river health protects the conditions for life and biodiversity in the region.

In addition, fire prevention provides a nature-based solution to climate change. Healthy vegetation removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and releases oxygen, whereas wildfire releases a concentration of carbon into the atmosphere while killing the trees and plants that would otherwise utilize and store it.

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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### **PROJECT READINESS**

LRPC is ready to begin work. Staffing may be supplemented by temporary labor to scale operational capacity as needed. LRPC will also secure ROE Agreements from landowners before commencing work.

### **PERMIT COMPLIANCE**

LRPC has applied for a Secretarial Exemption to suspend state statutes and regulations for wildfires which is consistent with the Governor's March 1, 2025, State of Emergency Proclamation.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **PROPOSITION 4 GUIDELINES AND OTHER  
UPDATES (*ACTION*)**

Proposition 4 was passed by voters on November 5, 2024. It made \$48,000,000 available to the San Diego River Conservancy to reduce the risks of climate change impacts on communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access subject to appropriation by the Legislature. The Legislature appropriated \$8 million of the funds to the Conservancy in budget years 2025-2026. This proposed action item is to consider and adopt guidelines to implement San Diego River Conservancy's Proposition 4 (Prop 4) Nature-Based Solutions grant program. The guidelines, which are similar to previous Conservancy grant guidelines were posted on the Conservancy's website on October 3, 2025, for a 30-day public comment period.

**Presentation:**

Hayley Peterson, DAG, Department of Justice  
Julia Richards, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy

**Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 26-07**

**Resolution No: 26-07**

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

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY'S NATURE-BASED  
SOLUTION GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES UNDER PROPOSITION 4**

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WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy (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 Consortium areas; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 4 was approved by voters on November 5, 2024, for the purposes of helping communities avoid and recover from the impacts of wildfire, flood, drought, or other extreme weather events, and help restore and protect natural systems; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy was allocated \$48,000,000 under Proposition 4, "Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024" (Prop 4) with funds made available for Nature Based Solutions pursuant to Public Resources Code section 93020, subdivision (a)(5), to reduce the risk of extreme weather impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access; 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, Conservancy staff prepared draft Nature Based Solutions grant program guidelines and posted on the Conservancy's website on October 3, 2025, for a 30-day public comment period; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board, based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits:

1. Approve the Conservancy's Prop 4 Nature-Based Solutions grant guidelines attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 1.

Approved and adopted on March 18, 2026. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 26-07 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

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Julia L. Richards  
Executive Officer

San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board Members Roll Call Vote

| Name                      | Ayes | Noes | Abstained |
|---------------------------|------|------|-----------|
| CNRA: Bryan Cash          |      |      |           |
| DOF: Stephen Benson       |      |      |           |
| CADFW: Glen Lubcke        |      |      |           |
| Dr. Jennifer Campbell     |      |      |           |
| Joel Anderson             |      |      |           |
| Raul Campillo, Vice Chair |      |      |           |
| Ben Clay, Chair           |      |      |           |
| Ruth Hayward              |      |      |           |
| J. Cody Petterson         |      |      |           |
| Jamie LaBrake             |      |      |           |
| Elsa Saxod                |      |      |           |
| DPR Designee, Ray Lennox  |      |      |           |
| DPR Designee, Adams       |      |      |           |
| Laura Koval               |      |      |           |
| Phil Ortiz                |      |      |           |

# **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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## **Staff Recommendation SDRC Resolution 26-07**

March 18, 2026

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the San Diego River Conservancy Proposition 4 Nature-Based Solutions guidelines.

### **RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the San Diego River Conservancy adopt resolution 26-07 pursuant to the San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, § 32630 et seq.):

The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes approval of the San Diego River Conservancy's Proposition 4 Nature-Based Solutions grant program guidelines.

### **SUMMARY:**

Conservancy staff prepared the draft guidelines and posted the guidelines on its website on October 3, 2025, for a 30-day public comment period.

### **OVERVIEW:**

When the Legislature appropriated Proposition 4's nature-based solutions funding, it did not exempt the adoption of guidelines from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) as it did for the Conservancy's allocation of wildfire funding. The Legislature adopted urgency legislation, Assembly Bill 149 (2025), that provides that a regulation for the purpose of developing and adopting program guidelines could be adopted as an emergency regulation to streamline the process. The Legislature subsequently, adopted legislation, [Assembly Bill 107](#) (Section 36), to provide an exemption from the APA for agencies developing and adopting guidelines but only for appropriations in the Budget Act of 2025, meaning it applies to Round 1 only. Future rounds may be subject to APA or another process to be determined by the Legislature, which the Legislature is considering in Assembly Bill 35. The Conservancy anticipates that under the Nature-Based Solutions grant program, Round 2 concept proposals will be due in February or April 2027.

To comply with future rounds of Prop 4 Nature-Based Solutions grant program, Conservancy staff has prepared an emergency regulation package which it may bring to the Board in the future for consideration and submission to the Office of Administrative Law as necessary and depending on what action the Legislature takes on Assembly Bill 35 or other legislation.

The draft Nature-Based Solutions grant program guidelines are similar to previous Conservancy grant guidelines, which the Board has approved previously. Staff posted the draft guidelines on the Conservancy's website on October 3, 2025, for a 30-day comment period. Two email responses were received, and the Conservancy Executive Officer called and spoke with both organizations about their questions. One from San Diego Bird

## **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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Alliance stating, “the guidelines are overall clear and concise,” but had a few questions on details relating to costs and previously proposals. The second response was from Outdoor Outreach who stated they did not have any comments on the Conservancy’s guidelines but made comments to elected officials about the statewide Prop 4 fund delays and asked for clarification on priority areas and public access.

Staff recommends the Conservancy adopt the Prop 4 Nature Based Solutions grant guidelines attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY'S  
GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSITION 4 - NATURE  
BASED SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM**



March 18, 2026  
Program Manager  
Dustin Harrison, Environmental Scientist  
[dustin.harrison@sdrc.ca.gov](mailto:dustin.harrison@sdrc.ca.gov) or 619-390-0571

## I. Introduction

### A. Background

The San Diego River Conservancy (“Conservancy”) is a state agency, established in 2002, to work within the San Diego River watershed to implement multi-benefit projects that protect and enhance the San Diego River and its connected resources (Public Resources Code, Division 22.9). The San Diego River Conservancy Act authorizes the Conservancy to undertake projects and award grants to achieve the goals set forth in Division 22.9. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the San Diego River, from its mouth in the City of San Diego at Ocean Beach to its headwaters in the mountains near Julian. The Conservancy’s jurisdiction also includes all of the contributing area to the San Diego River watershed including streams and tributaries, an estuary, wetlands, reservoirs, uplands, meadows and forests.

The Conservancy’s Grant Program seeks to support multi-benefit projects that advance a number of **goals**, including but not limited to:

- Conserving land
- Protecting resources
- Reducing flood and fire risk
- Improving water quality
- Protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats and corridors
- Completing the San Diego River Trail
- Providing public access for the enjoyment of the San Diego River Park and open space, trails, campgrounds and park facilities
- Removing invasive plant species from the watershed
- Increasing native habitat and promoting the re-establishment of native species
- Promoting cultural and tribal preservation, and historical interpretation of the San Diego River and its people

The Conservancy’s adopted Strategic Plan Update 2024-2028 identifies the Conservancy’s goals and objectives by program area. [Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#)

### B. Budgetary Language

Funding for the projects will be provided through the Nature-Based Solutions allocation under Proposition 4, contingent upon the availability of funds in the State’s regular budget process. This grant program will make funding available to eligible entities for the implementation of local assistance projects.

## C. Proposition 4 Overview

### 1. Summary

The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 was approved by voters on November 5, 2024. Proposition 4 (Prop 4) is codified as Division 50 of the Public Resources Code, Chapters 1-10, Sections 90000-95015. The purposes of Prop 4 include watershed improvement, wildfire resilience, chaparral and forest restoration, and workforce development that addresses needs related to this subdivision and to reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access.

Further, Public Resources Code, section 90050 states, "In expending funds pursuant to this division, an administering state agency shall give priority to projects that leverage private, federal, and local funding or produce the greatest public benefit."

At least 40 percent of the total funds available pursuant to Proposition 4 shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities. At least 10 percent of the total funds available pursuant to this division shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to severely disadvantaged communities.

The Conservancy's Proposition 4 funded grants must advance state priorities, align with the goals of the bond, be consistent with the San Diego River Conservancy Act, and comply with the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024. The Conservancy anticipates rolling out funding at approximately \$7 million every other year until funds are expended.

### 2. Conservancy Allocations

Under Chapter 3, for Wildfire and Forest Resilience, the Conservancy's \$25.5 million bond allocation will fund projects focused on wildfire prevention and forest resilience. The goal is to reduce wildfire risks to communities and to restore the health and resilience of forests and landscapes.

Under Chapter 6, to protect biodiversity and accelerating nature-based solutions the Conservancy's \$48 million bond allocation aims to enhance biodiversity, promote nature-based climate solutions, and support initiatives that address challenges such as drought, floods, and rising temperatures. These efforts will benefit communities, native habitats for fish and wildlife, and natural resources, while also improving public access to these areas. Overall, these activities will help protect nature and restore the health of ecosystems. Up to 5 percent of the funds made available pursuant to this section may be allocated for community access projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, and vulnerable populations and that include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Transportation, (2) Physical activity programming, (3) Resource interpretation, (4) Multilingual translation, (5) Natural science, (6) Workforce development and career pathways, (7) Education, (8) Communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits.

### 3. Definitions

“Disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.

“Nonprofit organization” means a nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

“Protection” includes those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property, or natural, cultural, and historic resources, actions to improve access to public open-space areas, or actions to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural, cultural, and historic resources. Protection includes site monitoring, acquisition, development, restoration, preservation, and interpretation.

“Restoration” includes the improvement of physical structures or facilities and, in the case of natural systems and landscape features, includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (A) The control of erosion.
- (B) Stormwater capture, treatment, reuse, and storage, or to otherwise reduce stormwater pollution.
- (C) The control and elimination of invasive species and harmful algal blooms.
- (D) The planting of native species.
- (E) The removal of waste and debris.
- (F) Prescribed burning and other fuel hazard reduction measures.
- (G) Fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources.
- (H) Improving instream, riparian, floodplain, or wetland habitat conditions.
- (I) Other plant and wildlife habitat improvement to increase the natural system value of the property or coastal or ocean resources.

“Restoration” also includes activities, including the planning, permitting, monitoring, and reporting that are necessary to ensure successful implementation of the restoration objectives.

“Severely disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income.

“State General Obligation Bond Law” means the State General Obligation Bond Law (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 16720) of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code), as it may be amended from time to time.

“Vulnerable population” means a subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.

## II. Program Purposes, Required Criteria and Eligibility

### A. Purpose of Grant Program Guidelines

These guidelines support goals listed above projects that create or improve ecological health of the watershed and result in a combination of multiple benefits, including but not limited to native habitats, ecosystems services, and community benefits.

Listed below are a proposed schedule for the grant solicitation process:

| <b>Dates</b>                                     | <b>Schedule</b>   |
|--|-------------------|
| Notice of Funding Availability - Prop 4, Round 1 | October 10, 2025  |
| Prop 4, Round 1 Concept Proposals Due            | December 30, 2025 |
|  |                   |
| Notice of Funding Availability - Prop 4, Round 2 | February 5, 2027  |
| Prop 4, Round 2 Concept Proposals Due            | April 30, 2027    |

### B. Eligible Entity

Project applicant must be (1) a public agency, including any city, county, city and county, special district, joint powers authority, state agency, public college, public university; (2) a non-profit organization that qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code; or (3) a Native American Tribe that is either federally recognized or is a California Native American Tribe on the Native American Heritage Commission contact list and located within traditional Kumeyaay territory and culturally affiliated with the County of San Diego.

### C. Project Selection Criteria

To be eligible for an award from the Conservancy under this grant program, projects must meet all of the following:

- Applicant is an eligible entity
- Located within the Conservancy's service areas (Watersheds of the San Diego River, Sweetwater River, Otay River and Tijuana River)
- Support/Consistent with the Conservancy's strategic plan
- Achieves the Conservancy's mission, statutory programs and goals
- Consistent with requirements of funding source and budget provisions
- Promote or implement approved state plans and priorities
- Result in clear, demonstrable benefits to the public or environment
- Meet all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, as applicable
- Include a long-term management plan and/or possible agreement with Conservancy to maintain project site for 10-20 years, as applicable

### D. Grant Program Priorities

1. Project located in the San Diego River watershed.
2. Land acquisition or conservation.
3. Benefits disadvantage or vulnerable communities.
4. Advances the San Diego River Trail and facilities (Planning, design or

construction).

## **II. Grant Application Process**

### **A. Contact the Conservancy**

The first step in the application process is to email the Conservancy and summarize the potential project, discuss design and permitting, describe its benefits to the environment and local community, provide budget estimate and matching or in-kind funds, and request a concept proposal. The Conservancy will conduct a brief consultation with the applicant.

### **B. Submit Concept Proposal**

The next step in the process is to submit a Concept Proposal. This form is posted on the Conservancy's website and may be updated periodically. The Conservancy may elect to solicit targeted proposals for a specific project type. The Conservancy may provide technical assistance to assist applicants in developing their projects. For any questions concerning the grant program, please contact Dustin Harrison, Environmental Scientist, at [dustin.harrison@sdrc.ca.gov](mailto:dustin.harrison@sdrc.ca.gov) or 619-390-0571. The Conservancy reserves the right to reject any applicant who has a history of performance issues with past grants or other agreements with any public entity.

### **C. Invitation for a Full Application**

Once Concept Proposals are submitted, the Conservancy will conduct meetings with potential applicants, visit project sites, and assess the applicants' organizational capacity while discussing their planned projects. Following this process, the Conservancy staff may invite certain applicants to submit full applications. The Conservancy will then review these applications and consult with experts as needed.

### **D. Application Review and Evaluation**

Full applications will be reviewed and evaluated based on how effectively the proposed project advances the evaluation criteria and fulfills the goals and priorities outlined in these Program Guidelines. To qualify for funding from this Grant Program, projects must align with the Conservancy's statute and comply with the conditions specified in these guidelines.

### **E. Conservancy Project Review and Evaluation**

The Conservancy's Program Guidelines provide required criteria that must be satisfied by all projects as well as additional program criteria that are not mandatory, but which will be considered for purposes of evaluation.

### **F. Grant Awards**

Grants will be awarded after approval by the Conservancy Board. The Conservancy Board holds public board meetings approximately 6 times a year. Staff recommendations will be provided to the Conservancy Board to document how each project meets criteria objectives and priorities for this grant program. Staff recommendations will be posted on the Conservancy's website prior to the public

meeting.

| Criteria  | Points     |
|---|------------|
| Supports the Conservancy mission, statute and strategic plan                  | 20         |
| Alignment with funding source and program goals                               | 15         |
| Supports state plans and priorities   | 15         |
| Organizational capacity and project readiness                                 | 15         |
| Project design, budget and timeline   | 15         |
| Collaboration and community engagement (Tribal, Non-Profit and/or Government) | 10         |
| Leveraged Funding   | 10         |
| California Conservation Corps   | 10         |
| <b>Priority – San Diego River watershed</b>                                   | 10         |
| <b>Priority – Land acquisition or conservation</b>                            | 10         |
| <b>Priority – Benefits disadvantage or vulnerable communities</b>             | 10         |
| <b>Priority – Advances the San Diego River Trail</b>                          | 10         |
| <b>Total Points Possible</b>  | <b>150</b> |

### III. Evaluation Criteria

#### A. Supports Conservancy mission and statute and strategic plan (20 points)

Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code “[The San Diego River Conservancy Act](#),” at Public Resources Code Sections 32630 – 32659.9 [\[pdf\]](#)

[Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#) Program areas:

- Land acquisition and conservation
- Recreation, education and interpretation
- Habitat protection and restoration
- Cultural, tribal and historical resource protection
- Water quality and flood conveyance
- Outreach and capacity

#### B. Alignment with funding source and program goals (15 points)

The degree to which the project aligns with funding source, program priorities (page 5), enhance public access, improve watershed health, and results in multiple, tangible public benefits. Here is a link to [Proposition 4 bond language](#):

#### C. The extent to which the project promotes and implements state priorities (15 points)

Promotion and implementation of State plans and priorities require that projects be consistent with adopted statewide plans and priorities. Related state plans include, but are not limited to: 2023 Outdoors for All, 30x30 Strategic Pathways Document, California’s 2021 Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2022 Scoping Plan to Achieve Carbon Neutrality, 2022 California Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy,

California Natural Resources Agency's Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update, 2018 California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan 2021, California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan 2021, California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, California State 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.

**D. Organizational capacity and project readiness (15 points)**

The degree to which the project is ready to proceed promptly and can meet funding expenditure requirements, if funded. Are property owners supportive of the project? In addition, for Implementation Projects: Is project planning and coordination complete? Is access secured, environmental compliance, permitting, or other necessary preparations complete, as appropriate? Is all funding identified or secured?

**E. Project design, budget and timeline (15 points)**

Clarity on the project purpose, goals, deliverables, treatment approach, schedule, and budget. Is the project design supported by science and proven methodologies or the use of new or innovative technology or practices? If it is a planning project, does it prepare all the necessary elements for the future implementation of the project, or address needs on a larger landscape scale? Are the proposed deliverables appropriate for the project? Is the budget adequate and reasonable to complete the project, with costs clearly defined and supported?

**F. Collaboration and Community, Tribal, Non-Profit and/or Government support (10 points)**

Support letters from local, state, tribal and federal organizations and community members. Extent to which the public, non-profit groups, landowners, and others will support or contribute to the project.

**G. Leveraged funding (10 points)**

Include other sources of funds, including matching funds and in-kind funds or donations.

**H. California Conservation Corps (10 points)**

Pursuant to §90150 – To the extent feasible, a project whose application includes the use of services of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5, shall be given preference for receipt of a grant under this division.

**IV. Additional Information**

**A. Ineligible Projects**

Funds must be spent consistent with the funding source. Examples of ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Projects cannot be used to fund acquisitions of land by eminent domain.
2. Projects that include acquisition of property for more than fair market value.
3. Projects that include both acquisition and development.
4. Projects that are intended to correct problems caused by inadequate routine maintenance.

5. Projects that would be used to fulfill mitigation requirements imposed by law.
6. Projects cannot establish or increase any endowment.

#### **B. Signage Requirements and Funding Acknowledgement**

If awarded a grant, prior to beginning the project, the grantee shall submit a plan to the Executive Officer to acknowledge the Conservancy's support. This plan must include press releases, social media postings during the agreement term, acknowledging Conservancy funding when speaking with the media, volunteers and the public about this Project and include a description of the Project on the Grantee's website acknowledging funding from the Conservancy.

In addition, the grantee shall submit a signage plan describing the number, design, placement and wording of the signs, or the specifications of a proposed, alternative method. The cost of the signs is an eligible cost. Temporary and permanent signage are required conditions under this agreement.

#### **C. Proof of Insurance**

If awarded a grant, prior to beginning the project, the grantee shall provide certificate of insurance during the grant period for Workers Compensation, General Liability (\$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury / \$2,000,000 general aggregate limit) and Automobile Liability (\$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage) including required endorsements.

#### **D. Grant Provisions**

Following Conservancy Board approval of a grant, staff will prepare a grant agreement with detailed conditions specific to the project. The grant agreement will be the binding legal agreement between the Conservancy and its grantee. The grant agreement must be signed by the grantee before funds are disbursed. Several typical grant agreement provisions are:

1. Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the State.
2. Grantees must submit a detailed scope of work and budget for Conservancy approval.
3. Grant funds will be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis.
4. Site control from applicant or the landowner is needed prior to commencing work.
5. Grantees may be required to reimburse the Conservancy for some or all of the disbursed grant funds if the project is not successfully completed.
6. Grantees must maintain liability insurance during grant term and include the San Diego River Conservancy as an "additional insured."
7. Expenses incurred before the Conservancy grant agreement is executed are not reimbursable.
8. The project complies with all applicable current laws and regulations affecting development projects, including but not limited to, legal requirements for construction and implementation, building codes, health and safety codes, state contractor's and other licenses, and disabled access laws.
9. Grantee must certify that all applicable permits have been obtained.
10. Grantees must comply with signage requirements acknowledging funding source.
11. Grantees must sign the grant agreement and exhibits, as needed, and comply with general terms and conditions in order to receive funds.

**E. Advanced payments may be considered by the Conservancy** and determined on a case-by-case basis, under these conditions:

- 1) Any organization requesting advance payments must provide written justification and statement of need
- 2) Advance payments are limited to 25% of grant award

**F. Grant expenses**

1. Labor Costs

- A. Project Implementation – The grantee’s employee labor implementing a project will be reimbursed at rates equal to compensation actually provided to the employee (salary plus benefits, including fringe benefits). The cost of a grantee’s labor/staff time to implement specific project tasks (for example, prepare a management plan, determine trail alignments) should be included in and billed to specific tasks in the budget.
- B. Project Management – the scope of work may include a task called “Project Management”. This task should cover labor costs, not otherwise billed, that are associated with administering a specific Conservancy grant (for example, managing contracts, paying consultants, billing, maintaining accounting records, and other time spent on managing the project).

2. Other Direct Costs

No markups on direct expenditures, these should be billed at cost.

**G. Indirect Costs or Overhead**

Overhead or indirect costs refer to the non-project-specific expenses involved in running a business. Examples of these costs include rent, computers, telephones, office supplies, internet access, copy machines, and electricity. However, certain types of indirect costs cannot be charged to the Conservancy, including food and beverages, fundraising expenses, lobbying, and entertainment costs. Additionally, any cost billed as a direct expense cannot be included in overhead calculations. Both “overhead” and “indirect costs” are acceptable terms that refer to the same category of expenses.

If a grantee wishes to recover overhead costs from a Conservancy grant, these costs should be listed as a line item in the approved project budget. Grantees that intend to charge overhead to a Conservancy grant must be able to document the validity of these charges. One common approach for documentation is to create a Cost Allocation Plan for their organization. While other methods may be acceptable, it is ultimately the grantee’s responsibility to ensure compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) guidelines.

The Conservancy maximum indirect rate allowed is 12% of the total grant amount.

**H. Payment Process**

Funds cannot be disbursed until there is a fully executed grant agreement between the Conservancy and grantee and satisfactory site control is provided, including a Memorandum of Understanding for operations and maintenance (if applicable); CEQA/NEPA (if applicable) is completed; and signage is installed. As stated above,

project payments are made on a reimbursement basis (i.e., the grantee pays for services, products or supplies; submits invoices and proof of payment; and is then reimbursed by the Conservancy). Each Request for Disbursement (RFD) submitted will require a progress report with supporting documentation. It generally takes 4-6 weeks to process payment once a complete RFD is submitted to the Conservancy. The last ten percent of the grant amount will be withheld until all deliverables and signs are installed.

**I. Use of Project Property**

The grantee must maintain and operate the property acquired, restored or developed in a manner consistent with the grant agreement and grant guidelines. Land acquisition, conservation, and trail easement proposals must include a plan describing the proposed restrictions and reservations for the easement and the funding mechanism available to support the plan. The final conservation easement terms and conditions are subject to approval by the Conservancy.

Grantees must own the land or hold a lease, long-term agreement, or other legal, long-term interest in the land that is satisfactory to the Conservancy.

**J. Project Monitoring and Reporting**

The Full Application must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. In addition, Conservancy staff will work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures. The monitoring and reporting components will vary depending on the nature of the project.

**K. Loss of Funding (not a complete list)**

The following are examples of actions that may result in a grantee's loss of funding:

- 1) Grantee fails to execute a grant agreement within three (3) months of grant approval.
- 2) Grantee withdraws from the grant program.
- 3) Property cannot be acquired at or below approved fair market value.
- 4) Grantee loses site control or landowner does not sign an operation and maintenance agreement.
- 5) Grantee fails to submit the required documentation within the time periods specified in the grant agreement.
- 6) Grantee fails to submit evidence of CEQA/NEPA compliance as requested.
- 7) Grantee changes project scope without prior approval from the Conservancy.
- 8) Grantee fails to demonstrate sufficient progress
- 9) Grantee fails to complete the project.

**L. State Audit and Accounting Audit Requirements**

If the project is selected for audit, the grantee will be contacted in advance. The audit shall include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the grantee, as they relate to the project for which the funds were granted.

The grantee must have the project records, including the source documents and

canceled checks, readily available and provide an employee with knowledge of the project to assist the auditor. The grantee must provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or the like, requested by the auditor.

### **Accounting requirements**

The grantee must maintain an accounting system that:

- accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards,
- provides a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, timecards, canceled checks, etc.
- provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined.

### **Records Retention**

Project records must be retained for a period of twenty (20) years after final payment is made by the Conservancy or ten (10) years following an audit, whichever is longer. A project is considered complete upon receipt of final grant payment from the Conservancy.

### **Ongoing Project Reporting**

Grantees are required to submit reports on the progress of the project as requested by the Conservancy through the term of the grant agreement. Entities will be provided with a final report of tasks completed and final accounting, including matching and in-kind contributions with the final invoice.

### **END OF GUIDELINES**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

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:

- Proposition 4 – Nature Based Solutions update

Conservancy staff attended the following events & meetings:

2024 Climate Bond/ Proposition 4 meetings and site visits  
Climate Bond Program Coordination Team meeting  
California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force meeting  
Dept. of General Services meeting  
Meeting with the new City of Santee City Manager  
San Diego State University Research Foundation meeting  
Access Working Group - Natural Resources Agency meeting  
Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee meeting  
Fire Safe Council of Greater San Diego meeting  
Jamul Fire Safe Council meeting and tour  
San Diego Regional Fire Foundation meeting  
San Diego County Parks, TCT meeting

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is anticipated to be held in person on Friday, May 22, 2026, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of March 18, 2026**

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT