



San Elijo Lagoon CONSI

Preserving, protecting and enhancing the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed

November 4, 2008

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Dr. John Robertus
Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Re: Complaint R9-2005-0265

Dear Dr. Robertus,

The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (SELCO) supports the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) (Barnett/Lish Property Preservation Project) submitted by The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) and the City of Escondido.

This project would preserve and protect over thirteen acres of riparian and upland habitat on or adjacent to the Escondido Creek. San Elijo Lagoon is the coastal terminus of the 75 square mile Escondido Creek watershed, and water quality problems in the Creek are immediately reflected in those of the 1,000-acre San Elijo Ecological Reserve and the Pacific Ocean waters to which they are connected. SELCO recognizes that land use is directly related to water quality and will continue to support projects throughout the watershed that protect and restore natural lands that ultimately determine the overall health of the watershed and the people, flora and fauna that live there.

For more than 20 years, SELCO has acquired and managed protected lands, carried out large-scale habitat restoration programs and conducted scientific monitoring aimed at enhancing and protecting the San Elijo Lagoon and its environs. Supported over the years by its 4,500 members/stakeholders it continues to offer public education on water quality and conservation issues, having provided guided walks to over 10,000 students throughout the lagoon and the training of 200 docents as naturalists since 1995.

SELCO shares the Escondido Creek Conservancy's commitment to protect, preserve, and restore open spaces, habitat, water, and water quality in the Escondido Creek watershed. TECC's mission is directly served by the approval of this SEP.

Sincerely,

Doug Gibson
Executive Director and Principal Scientist

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

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