



## **CITY OF SOLANA BEACH**

635 SOUTH HIGHWAY 101 • SOLANA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92075-2215 • (858) 720-2400  
www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us FAX (858) 792-6513 / (858) 755-1782

February 3, 2009

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
9174 Sky Park Court, Ste. 100  
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Attn: Mr. John Robertus, Executive Officer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **Re: Support for City of Escondido Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Proposal**

On behalf of the City of Solana Beach, I am writing in support of the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) proposal submitted by the City of Escondido and The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC), as partial settlement in addressing the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) findings of violation at their City's wastewater treatment plant.

We urge your strong consideration of Escondido City's proposal to dedicate 50% of the settlement amount towards funding their proposed SEP which would be of significant benefit to the Escondido Creek watershed, including the San Elijo Lagoon and San Dieguito River Valley.

The City of Solana Beach is bordered north and south by environmentally sensitive ecosystems associated with the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy & San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. San Elijo is a lagoon with channels connecting it with Escondido Creek watershed and San Dieguito Park follows a flowing river equally interconnected with important watershed areas. Our Council values and is dedicated in common with the Escondido Creek Conservancy to the preservation and protection of the natural open spaces within San Diego County watersheds.

The City of Solana Beach recognizes the importance of maintaining natural habitats that serve as sites where public awareness and educational programs can be fostered and which provide compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for the benefit of all communities in the region. We therefore strongly support the City of Escondido and TECC proposal to allocate half of the settlement amount to purchase and preserve sensitive habitat in the Escondido Creek watershed.

Their associated goal to restore 13 acres of riparian and upland habitat in the watershed further justifies strong consideration of their proposed SEP.

We recognize the great community value of these irreplaceable natural assets and understand the challenges of maintaining municipal wastewater systems that may be comprised of aging infrastructure or outdated facilities. The City of Solana Beach is committed to sewer infrastructure improvement programs that meet public safety/health standards *and also* protect our environmentally sensitive ecosystems.

We urge your support for the SEP and appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MIKE NICHOLS", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Nichols  
Mayor

cc: Council  
Lori Holt Pfeiler, Mayor – City of Escondido  
The Escondido Creek Conservancy  
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy  
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy