

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
February 10, 2016

- ITEM: 8
- SUBJECT: Information Item: Watershed Restoration Efforts along the San Diego River (*Chad Loflen*)
- PURPOSE: To provide the San Diego Water Board members with information about watershed restoration and property procurement by the United States Forest Service, San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Lakeside Land Conservancy, and San Diego Canyonlands.
- RECOMMENDATION(S): This is an information item only; no action will be taken by the Board at today's meeting
- KEY ISSUES: The United States Forest Service, State of California San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Lakeside River Park Conservancy, and San Diego Canyonlands are active participants in property acquisition and/or restoration of streams and wetlands along the San Diego River.
- PRACTICAL VISION: This topic is related to Chapter 2 of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision for Monitoring and Assessment. This item is related to the following Chapter 2 projects:
- Framework for Monitoring and Assessment
- This topic is directly related to Chapter 3 of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision for the *Recovery of Stream, Wetlands, and Riparian Systems*. This item is related to the following Chapter 3 projects:
- More incentives for and Better Outreach in Support of Protection and Restoration
  - Comprehensive Assessment of Conditions and Restoration Opportunities
  - Improved Collaboration with Governmental Agencies, Nongovernmental Organizations, and the Scientific Community
- DISCUSSION: The San Diego River is considered the "Birthplace of California" and is the namesake of the San Diego Region. The San Diego River watershed is 440 mi<sup>2</sup> in extent and is drained by the San Diego River which enters the Pacific Ocean south of Mission Bay through the San Diego River estuary. Major tributaries include Los Coches Creek, Chocolate Creek, San Vicente Creek, Boulder Creek, and

Conejos Creek. The El Capitan Dam and Reservoir are situated on the mainstem of the San Diego River, dividing the watershed into two hydrologically distinct areas.

The City of San Diego occupies the largest developed portion of the watershed (16.8%), followed by Santee (3.8%), El Cajon (3.3%) La Mesa (1.1%) and Poway (0.2%). However, the majority of the watershed (74.7%) is unincorporated, with the majority land use (72%) being undeveloped open space. Developed urban land covers 26%. A small portion of the watershed (2%) is used for agriculture. Important open space protected areas include the Cleveland National Forest, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and Mission Trails Regional Park, operated by the City of San Diego. The headwaters are largely protected by the Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve, operated by the County of San Diego. Other major landowners include several Indian reservations, including the Capitan Grande, Barona, Inaja, and Cosmit Reservations. The California Department of Transportation is also a landowner within the watershed, with jurisdiction over all major freeways and highways.

For this agenda item, the United States Forest Service, State of California's San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Lakeside River Park Conservancy, and San Diego Canyonlands will discuss their efforts for property acquisition and/or restoration related to streams and wetlands throughout the San Diego River watershed.

Representatives from each group will give a presentation at today's meeting discussing their mission, means and methods of their work, and examples of past, present, and future property acquisition and/or restoration.

The San Diego Water Board has identified the San Diego River as a priority waterbody for implementation of the [Framework for Monitoring and Assessment](#). That effort is currently in the implementation phase, which includes coordinating monitoring efforts, updating permitting requirements, and producing watershed report cards.

This item can advance the goals of [Resolution R9-2015-0041](#) to support restoration of aquatic ecosystems in the San Diego Region. By identifying specific areas and projects, the public agencies and NGOs could help the San Diego Water Board to direct funds to complete the wetland restoration work. Sources of funding could include grants, supplemental environmental projects, and

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

alternative compliance projects under the Regional MS4 Permit.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Link to the [United States Forest Service](#)

Link to the [San Diego River Conservancy](#)

Link to the [San Diego River Park Foundation](#)

Link to the [Lakeside River Park Conservancy](#)

Link to the [San Diego Canyonlands](#)

Supporting Document 1: San Diego Canyonlands Brochure

Supporting Document 2: San Diego Canyonlands Grant Map

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The agenda notice for today's meeting was also posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to those subscribed to the Email list for Board meetings.