

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
MAY 11, 2022**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

San Diego River Watershed Update Part 2: San Diego River Park Foundation Update on its Healthy Waters Initiative in the Headwaters and Trash-Free Campaign in the Lower River *(David Gibson)*

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Informational item only; no recommendation.

**KEY ISSUE**

This item is an opportunity for the San Diego Water Board and members of the public to receive updates about some of the important San Diego River Park Foundation projects in the San Diego River watershed.

**PRACTICAL VISION**

Chapter 8 of the Practical Vision, Provide Effective Community Engagement and Communication, focuses on implementing the core values of leadership, communication, and transparency. This item provides an excellent opportunity for the Board and the public to learn from the San Diego River Park Foundation about their projects and to voice any concerns related to those projects.

**DISCUSSION**

Rob Hutsel, President and CEO, and Sarah Humacher, Chief Associate Director, will provide updates on the San Diego River Park Foundation's Healthy Waters Initiative and Trash-Free Campaign.

**Healthy Waters Initiative**

The catchment for El Capitan Reservoir contains the Upper San Diego River and numerous creeks and streams. This expansive area is largely pristine except for communities such as Julian, Pine Hills, and Santa Ysabel. The Healthy Waters Initiative focuses on the stretch of the San Diego River above this reservoir, as well as the waterways that directly drain into the river.

Through a program of monitoring, acquisition, and restoration the Health Waters Initiative seeks to protect these waters. The program is currently focused on Ritchie, Cedar, Temescal, and Boulder Creeks. This part of the presentation will focus on the efforts of this initiative and will include an update on a project on Temescal Creek that is funded by a Supplemental Environmental Project.

**Trash Free Campaign**

The goal of a trash-free river has been a focus of the San Diego River Park Foundation since it was founded. With a focus on the lower 20 miles of the river, the most urban section, the Trash-Free Campaign has advanced from its early days to a national model. The program has developed a data-driven approach of field surveys, clean-ups, advocacy, and education.

The San Diego River Park Foundation works across multiple agencies and other interests to advance a collaborative model. This part of the presentation will provide an overview of this program as well as the current challenges. The current challenges include permit uncertainty relating to buried and partially buried trash, a limited number of unresponsive private properties, and addressing encampments within the riverbed.

**LEGAL CONCERNS**

None.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None.