

# San Diego River Park Project

## Many Stories

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## One River

Presented by

San Diego River Park Foundation

February 8, 2002



*...covered with a dense forest of Sycamore, Willow, and cottonwood, with an abundance of shrubbery, among which the wild grape was the most abundant. At this time the river ran through the most northerly part of the plain, skirting the hills represented on the plan, and emptied into the False Bay.*

Topographical Engineer Lt. George Derby in his report to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress ( 1853-54) describing Mission Valley

# 34 Million Gallons of Raw Sewage Spills into the San Diego River

February 2000

- ✓ Need for community grassroots organizing
- ✓ Need to raise the profile of the river

## Response:

San Diego River Coalition

San Diego River Park Foundation



## Goals:

Coalition Building/Better Communication

Strategy/Concept Planning

Fundraising – Projects!

Raise Awareness and Coordinate with Regulatory Agencies

# San Diego River Coalition

- Friends of Dog Beach
- Friends of Famosa Slough
- Friends of Mission Valley Preserve
- Friends of Tecolote Canyon
- Audubon
- Sierra Club
- Friends of Adobe Falls
- San Diego River Park – Lakeside Conservancy
- Mission Trails Regional Park (Foundation/CAC)
- Endangered Habitats League
- Back Country Land Trust
- Tierrasanta Community Council
- San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
- Tecolote Canyon CAC

*The mission of the San Diego River Coalition is to preserve and enhance the San Diego River, its watershed, and its natural, cultural, and recreational resources*

# San Diego River Park Foundation

## Board of Directors

- Jo Ann Anderson
- Michael Beck – President
- Dr. Kurt Benirschke
- Charles Berwanger
- Sandra Ciallella
- Thomas DiBenedetto
- James Hubbell
- Jim Peugh
- Dr. M. Lea Rudee

## Staff

- Jo Ann Anderson – Executive Director
- Rob Hutsel – Director – Special Projects

*Our mission is to support and empower community groups working to restore and enhance the river, its environs, and to foster stewardship of this important community and regional asset.*

## Organizational Relationships

Policy Committee of  
Elected Officials

San Diego River  
Coalition

San Diego River  
Park Foundation



# San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan

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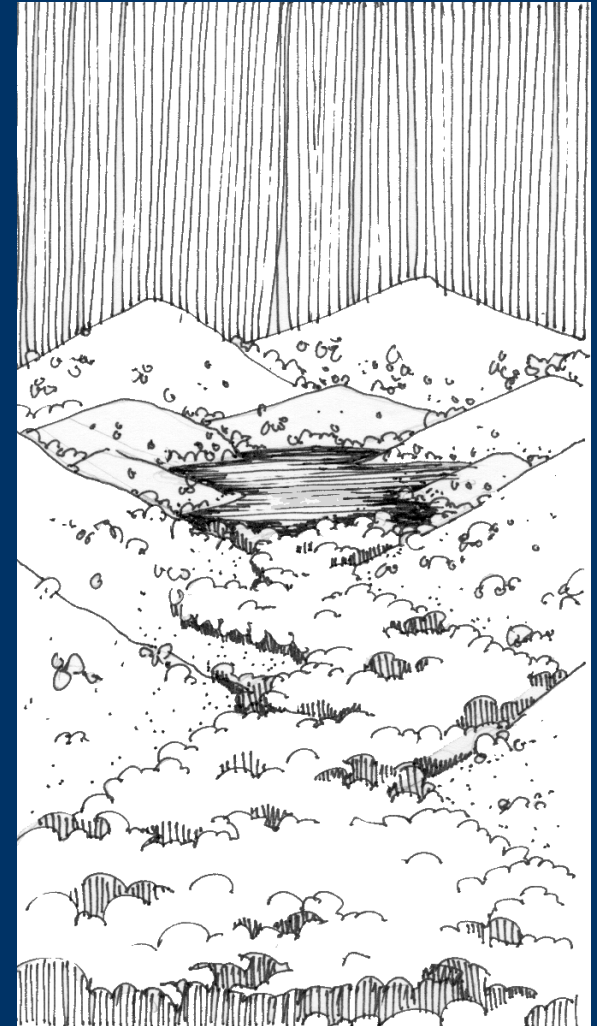
# Background Information on the 606 Studio

- The 606 Studio is a group of faculty and third-year Landscape Architecture Masters students.
- The Studio focuses on the application of advanced methods of analysis and design with particular emphasis on the preservation and restoration of sensitive natural systems.
- Working with the direction and continuous participation of the faculty, graduate students perform the tasks of research, analysis, planning and presentation.



# Report Contents

- Introduction, setting and history
- Issues
- Inventory of existing conditions
- Stakeholder and community vision
- Suitability analysis
- Development of design alternatives and guidelines
- Evaluation of alternatives
- Summary for future investigations and future planning efforts



# Conceptual Plan

The planning process began with the determination of the scope of the study. Because the upstream activity that impacts the San Diego River eventually affects all downstream areas, we have selected the river watershed as the largest area of study. At this scale we are developing a general understanding of watershed functions and river processes based on existing data.



# Conceptual Plan

Next a detailed study of the river south of the El Capitan Reservoir will be conducted to develop alternatives. At the the smallest scale, portions of the lower river will be the subject for conceptual design to illustrate plan recommendations.



# The San Diego River Park

Our vision of the San Diego River Park is a network of preserved open space along the river that integrates the river's environmental and social values for the benefit of citizens and visitors. It will provide increased public access to the river and enhance the sense of place.



# Linkage Concept

- ✓ Cleveland National Forest
- ✓ El Capitan Reservoir
- ✓ El Monte County Park
- ✓ Mast Park
- ✓ Mission Trails Regional Park
- ✓ Mission Valley Preserve
- ✓ Old Town State Park / Presidio Park
- ✓ Mission Bay Park
- ✓ Famosa Slough

# Riparian Park Benefits

- The river today is an existing undeveloped corridor connecting many of the region's open spaces.
- This corridor can provide recreational and educational opportunities and access through open space linkages.
- The San Diego River corridor provides a unifying physiographic base for conservation with the resilience necessary for long term sustainability of the region's biodiversity.



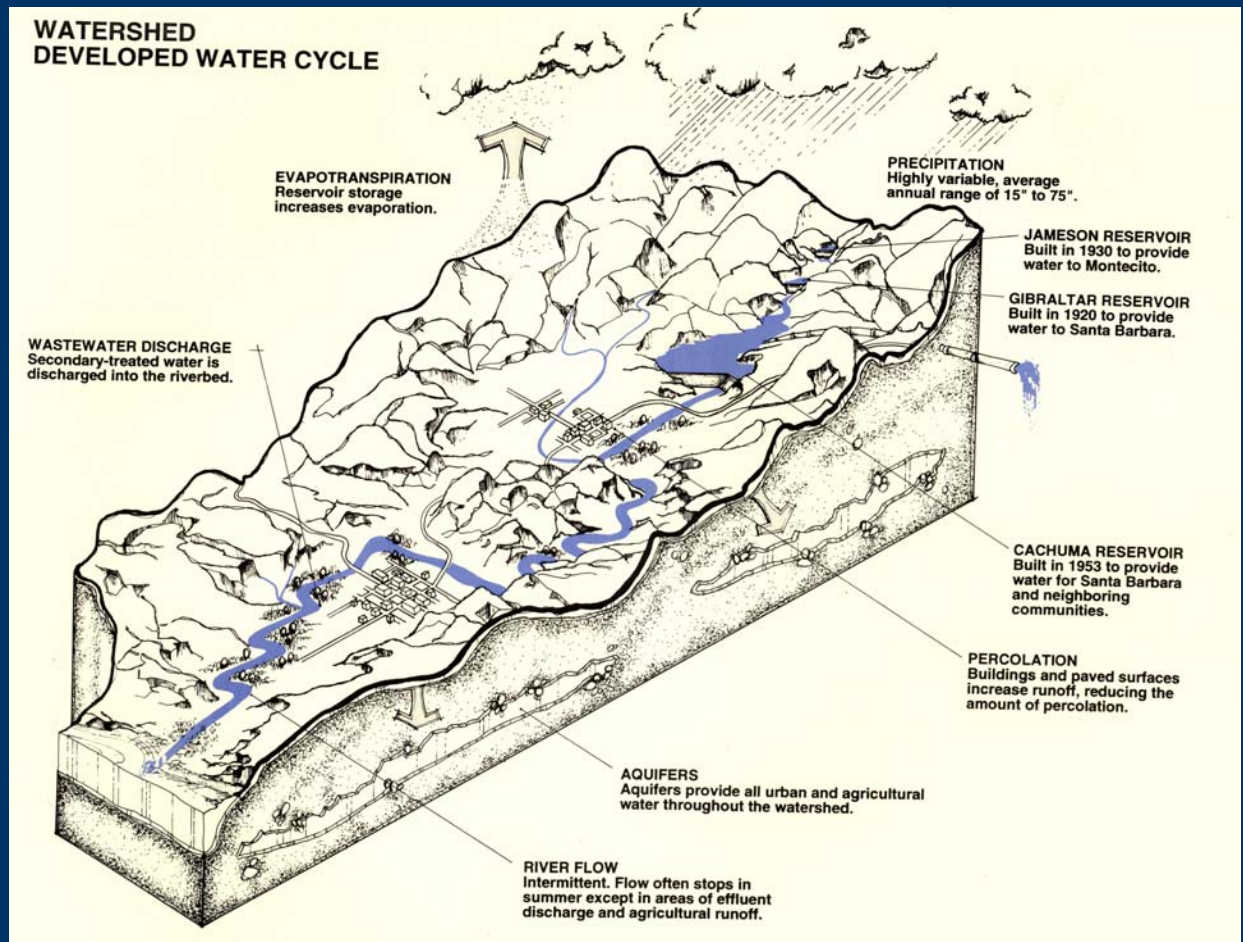
# Issues

- Biodiversity protection and nature preservation
- Open space and community linkages
- Water quality and flood control
- Resource conservation
- Recreational and educational opportunities
- Intensity of use and competing uses
- Visual character
- Cultural resource conservation
- Economic viability
- Community visions



# Data Collection

- Existing planning documents
- Case studies and research
- GIS mapping
- Interviews
- Workshops



# Preliminary List of Stakeholders

## Federal

- EPA
- National Forest Service
- Army Corps of Engineers
- FEMA

## State

- Dept. of Fish and Game
- Dept. of Parks and Rec.
- Dept. of Toxic Substance Control
- California Coastal Conservancy
- California Coastal Commission
- Water Resources Control Board
- Assembly's Select Committee on Park  
and River Restoration

## Cities and County

- Dept. of Public Works
- Dept. of Parks and Rec.
- Water Districts, etc.



## **Non-Profit/Community Organizations**

- California Coastal Conservancy
- Friends of Famosa Slough
- Friends of Dog Beach
- Friends of Adobe Falls
- Friends of Mission Valley Preserve
- Project Pacific
- Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation/CAC
- San Diego River Park - Lakeside Conservancy
- USDRIC
- San Diego Audubon
- San Diego Bicycle Coalition
- Tierrasanta Community Council
- Sierra Club
- Tecolote Nature Center

# Project Schedule (partial)

San Diego River Coalition Workshop  
Tecolote Nature Center - February 15, 2002

San Diego Community Workshop  
Community College District 7 to 9 PM- February 21, 2002

Lakeside/Santee Community Workshop  
TBA –7 to 9 PM February 28, 2002

Inventory and Analysis Presentation  
Cal Poly Pomona - March 18, 2002

Conceptual Plan Presentation  
Cal Poly Pomona – June 10, 2002

Draft Document - June 2002

Printed Document - Fall 2002





