

2018 Work Program

The San Diego River Coalition

Adopted: November 17, 2017

About the San Diego River Coalition

The San Diego River Coalition was formed in September 2001 to bring together groups and organizations interested in working together to advance the regional San Diego River Park and related trail system as well as to advance the health of the natural systems of the 440 square mile San Diego River Watershed.

The River Coalition is comprised of a multitude of entities with the San Diego River Park Foundation as the chair of the meetings. The River Park Foundation also serves as the host of the meetings and Coalition activities.

With a desire to at times advocate for policies, initiatives and activities, the River Coalition is comprised of non-governmental entities. However, all interested government agencies are invited to actively participate in meetings as are interested members of the community.

Voting is only taken by active members of the Coalition. While a consensus is always desired, at times the Coalition will vote on matters.

About the Annual Work Program

The Work Program is a statement of the shared priorities of the River Coalition. It is the intent to guide the Coalition's advocacy and activities. It is also, a statement of shared priorities which are communicated to various stakeholders. If an item is listed as a priority, then the Coalition chair may publicly state the Coalition's support without further action. This may be in the form of testifying at public hearings, writing letters of support, applying for funding or related activities. Coalition members may bring items at any time before the Coalition for consideration of support and/or addition to the Work Program. A vote of the Coalition is required to take these actions.

The Work Program represents items which have widespread support of groups and organizations working to advance the San Diego River Park and related trail system and enhance the health of the natural systems of the San Diego River Watershed. There are additional projects that may be not ready to proceed, have not been brought forward to the Coalition or are not seen to advance regional goals the vision of the River Park system. The Work Plan aims to focus our attention on a few select projects.

As such, it is an important statement of the Coalition's top priorities.

Adopted Work Plan Programs and Projects 2018

1. Organizational Planning for the River Coalition

In 2018 the San Diego River Coalition desires to go through a planning effort to shape the next 5 years of this collaborative effort. Items to discuss include:

- a. Areas of focus
- b. Membership
- c. Committee structure
- d. Additional Items of interest

2. Private Development Proposals

In 2018, the San Diego River Coalition will continue to work with proponents of private development along the River and its tributaries to advance the goals of the River Coalition. At times the Coalition may take positions in regards to the appropriateness of these proposals.

3. Public Projects

In 2018, the San Diego River Coalition will continue to work with proponents of public projects along the River and its tributaries to advance the goals of the River Coalition. At times, the Coalition may advocate for additional projects consistent with its adopted Work Program or other projects approved by the Coalition's membership.

4. Funding of Operations and Maintenance

As part of its 2018 planning discussions, the River Coalition will review potential positions on long-term maintenance and operations. Examples of these revenue streams could be assessment districts, TOT, and other revenues.

5. Advancing the Regional San Diego River Park and Related Trail System

Ongoing Projects

The River Coalition continues to support projects in progress:

- a. SANDAG's efforts to create a temporary pathway through the Stadium parking lot and associated connections.

- b. The City of San Diego’s efforts to install lighting under 163 along the sidewalk for Camino de la Reina
- c. The City of San Diego’s efforts to install protected crossings of Camino del Este (north and south of River pathways)
- d. The San Diego River Park Foundation’s Discovery Center at Grant Park
- e. River Trail section between Mast Park West and MTRP/West Hills Parkway
- f. The adoption of a Estuary Trail Enhancement Plan

Priorities

a. **West Valley Crossing**

This is to complete a detailed engineering study for a crossing to extend the River Trail from the Mission Valley Preserve to Friars Road at the Mission Valley YMCA and provide for the extension of the River Trail to the proposed Riverwalk Golf Course Development.

b. **Eagle Peak Ranch to Heise County Park**

This project is to advance a shared vision for this section of the River Trail known as the “South Rim Extension.” Landowners should be engaged to determine likely trail alignments. Trail easements and when necessary, land acquisitions, should be secured to advance the trail as opportunities present themselves. The National Forest Service should be engaged to explore a new staging area to serve the San Diego River Trail. This should also include securing a public trail easement, if needed, through the properties such as Eagle Peak Ranch.

c. **Cleveland National Forest to El Monte Road near El Capitan Reservoir**

The Coalition advocates for a public trail easement in the immediate area of the El Capitan Reservoir Dam to provide a connection from the El Cajon Mountain Truck Trail to El Monte Road. As part of the discussions with the City of San Diego and National Forest Service, other facilities such as staging areas should be explored. Possible phasing of the project would be supported to create an initial trail as associated elements (parking, trailhead, etc.) are considered.

d. **North Rim Trail Study**

The Coalition supports the study of potential trail alignments to connect the regional San Diego River Trail with the San Dieguito River Park Trail in Ramona. This is consistent with the County of San Diego’s Trail Master Plan. This study could guide future acquisition of easements and other instruments to advance this Trail segment.

e. Finalizing alignment from El Cajon Mountain Truck Trail to San Diego River Gorge Trail

This includes securing any easements or permissions required to finalize trail alignment.

f. San Diego River Trail Wayfinding and Signage Plan for the Mission Valley Greenway

This is to create a plan for signage and other amenities along the River Trail from Mission/Stadium to Fashion Valley Road utilizing the trolley stations as key sites.

g. Qualcomm Way River Trail Connection

This would explore the feasibility of providing a connection from Qualcomm Way to the San Diego River Trail on the east side of the roadway.

6. Trash Cleanup and Addressing Encampments

a. Work with agencies and private landowners to comprehensively address the impacts of encampments along the San Diego River.

Develop and begin implementation of a 2 year program which addresses both short term and long term impacts of encampments from along the San Diego River and advance efforts to provide services to people in these encampments to reduce the total number of people living in these encampments

b. Work toward a Trash-Free River in the lower 20 miles of the River

Work with landowners/managers to work toward a trash-free river by supporting collaborative strategies and clean-up programs

7. Habitat

a. Remove invasive plants within the estuary

Work with the City of San Diego to develop a program to remove invasive plants from I-5 to Dog Beach.

8. Water Quality

a. Expanded DO Project

Build upon lessons learned with the current Mission Valley project to address Dissolved Oxygen levels in the River and expand the project to other areas.

b. Famosa Slough Stormwater Pipe Project

This is to construct a stormwater pipe from the end of the alley between Mentone and Mintalvo Streets to carry stormwater to treatment ponds at Valeta Street

9. Park and Facilities

Ongoing Projects

The River Coalition continues to support projects in progress:

- a. Discovery Center at Grant Park
- b. Mission Valley Heritage Museum

Priorities

- a. Incorporation of Parks, Waterway and Trails in all plans advanced for the Stadium site.**

Support incorporation of Stadium River Park and associated River Trail and River improvements consistent with Coalition's adopted principles

10. Acquisition

- a. River Parkway**

Acquire easements or fee title properties within the River 100 year floodplain and adjacent areas which can be incorporated into the river park and trail system

Additional Projects

The San Diego River Coalition maintains a list of other programs and projects of note. These projects have been given a lower priority. Some may be essential for completion of the River Park and Trail system. Therefore, they all should be consider important, and if conditions change they may be elevated to a top priority.