

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers Take to the Water to Clean-Up the San Diego River Estuary

Kayaks, canoes and shore-walking volunteers join forces to clean the 330 acre wetland habitat

San Diego, CA – The San Diego River Park Foundation and more than 125 community volunteers will take advantage of the very high tide to launch kayaks and canoes in the San Diego River estuary. With recent rains, trash has washed into the estuary, threatening this sensitive ecosystem.

This area is normally not accessible because it is a protected habitat area, but once a year, outside of nesting season, the San Diego River Park Foundation coordinates with the City of San Diego and wildlife agencies to get special permission to access the habitat to remove this debris. This year, the kayak clean-up is scheduled for January 14, 2017 from 8:00 am to noon. Paddlers will remove debris from the water, and shore volunteers will remove trash along the banks of the estuary and along the San Diego River Trail.

The San Diego River Estuary is a critically important 330 acre wildlife area with habitat for many sensitive species, including endangered birds that nest in the estuary, like the Ridgway's Rail and the California Least Tern. Over 100 different species of birds use this area as a rest area along the Pacific Flyway during their yearly migrations between Alaska and Mexico.

Rob Hutsel, President and CEO of the San Diego River Park Foundation, says "This wetland area is such an important resource, both for the plants and animals that rely on it, and for all of us to enjoy. We are so thrilled to be able to organize this big crowd to help care for the estuary!"

This clean-up is part of the San Diego River Park Foundation's year-long Clean and Green Team clean-up program, supported by program sponsors like the City of San Diego, Think Blue, REI, The Dorrance Family Foundation, Patagonia, Union Bank and the Qualcomm Foundation. Additionally, Aqua Adventures Kayak Center will be providing kayaks for volunteers.

Members of the public are invited to be a part of this effort to protect our local waterways! There are still a few spots open for shore volunteers. Learn more by visiting www.sandiegoriver.org, emailing volunteer@sandiegoriver.org, or calling (619) 297-7380.

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About The San Diego River Park Foundation

The San Diego River Park Foundation's mission is to engage people to work toward a better future for the historic San Diego River and the creation of a 52 mile river parkway from the mountains to the ocean. The River Park Foundation is a non-profit community-based organization that is dedicated to working toward the vision of a trash-free San Diego River. In 2016, the River Park Foundation volunteers removed 223,942 pounds of trash from the River. Visit www.sandiegoriver.org for more information.