The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy preserves, protects and shares the natural and cultural resources of the San Dieguito River Valley through collaborative efforts to acquire lands, complete trails, restore habitats, establish educational programs, create interpretive centers, encourage recreation, and mobilize public support.
SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

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INTRODUCTION

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (SDRVC), was created in 1986 by a group of citizens from the coastal San Diego area. The SDRVC is fulfilling its vision of a 92,000-acre River Park and its 70-mile Coast to Crest Trail from the ocean at Del Mar to Volcan Mountain north of Julian. It is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and is supported in its activities and financially by more than 1,400 SDRVC supporters. It partners with the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority, citizens, landowners, governments and other non-governmental groups to ensure coordinated protection of the resources of the river corridor. Each year the SDRVC reports on its accomplishments and establishes a work plan for staff to serve as a roadmap to achieve this vision. The annual report and staff work plan refer to relevant elements of the Strategic Plan and the SDRVC’s Mission Statement:

“The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy preserves, protects and shares the natural and cultural resources of the San Dieguito River Valley through collaborative efforts to acquire lands, complete trails, restore habitats, establish educational programs, create interpretive centers, encourage recreation, and mobilize public support.”

The 2019-2020 Budget and Staff Work Plan considers three core initiatives set forth in the SDRVC Strategic Plan:

- Conservation
- Education
- Recreation

Our financial partners support our efforts to make our programming efficient, economic and transparent:

Our Performance Measures and Goals help measure progress the SDRVC is making to meet its organizational objectives, strategies and initiatives within the associated fiscal year budget.

Many partners help the SDRVC implement its programs, projects, and initiatives. The partners listed below assist the SDRVC in meeting its goals:
Thanks to the support of many members, the SDRVC has made huge strides in our conservation, education and recreation programs. Here’s a review of the highlights of what the SDRVC accomplished together during these past months.

Organizational Highlights

Peter DeFrancesca was elected as a new board member at the March 2019 Annual Meeting. Bill Adelson, Shelley Glenn Lee, Immo Scheffler and Kate Sheehan were elected to serve a second term on the Board.

Conservation

The SDRVC partners with public and private organizations, individuals and government agencies to strategically and sustainably combat invasive vegetation and restore habitat throughout the San Dieguito watershed, through grant funding, volunteer events and public education. Current SDRVC invasive control and restoration projects are located at Bernardo Mountain, Brigantine Basin in Del Mar, Clevenger Canyon North, Crest Canyon in the City of San Diego, Gonzales Canyon in the City of San Diego, Fairbanks Ranch, the Del Dios Gorge, River Path Del Mar and San Pasqual Valley.

Education:

The SDRVC Education Committee, headed by Board Member Shelley Glenn Lee, created the SDRVC Education Strategy.

The vision of the Strategy is to create stewards of the San Dieguito Watershed that are educated, empowered, and engaged. SDRVC has a mission to increase knowledge and stewardship of the environment through experiential age-appropriate educational programs within the San Dieguito Watershed.

Our Watershed Explorers and Citizen Science Monitoring Programs continue to grow and gain momentum under the leadership of Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum and Education Manager Ana Lutz.

The Exploring our Sense of Place Program was attended by 26 enthusiastic hikers. They traversed many trails on the watershed beginning at Volcan Mountain and culminating with a luncheon and graduation ceremony at the San Diego Lagoon.

SDRVC brought over 350 youth into the river valley this year to experience the Watershed Explorers Program and over 58 Citizen Scientists have surveyed birds, rare plants and herps, and assisted with motion-activated wildlife camera trapping throughout the river valley.
Our first year implementing A Pollinator’s Paradise Program was a success. We educated over 45 youth on the importance bees, butterflies and other pollinators play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Recreation:

The Pamo Valley segment of the Coast to Crest Trail opened on January 26, 2019. Over 100 people joined SDRVC and the San Dieguito River Park JPA for the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Several segments of the Coast to Crest Trail are closer to connecting communities at Santa Fe Valley, Lusardi Creek, Osuna Valley, and Santa Ysabel.

All the support the SDRVC receives from members and other contributors is what makes these programs, projects and activities possible. Below is more information on these highlights and our anticipated accomplishments for 2018-2019 - continuing our history of making the San Dieguito River Park an enduring treasure for future generations!

CONSERVATION

The SDRVC partnered with other organizations and public and private stakeholders to strategically and sustainably combat invasive vegetation and restore habitat throughout the San Dieguito watershed, through grant funding, volunteer events and public education.

The SDRVC implemented invasive control and other conservation projects at the Brigantine Basin in Del Mar, Clevenger Canyon North, Fairbanks Ranch, Gonzales Canyon, River Path Del Mar and San Pasqual Valley.

Brigantine Basin in Del Mar

The Brigantine Basin and much of the San Dieguito Lagoon faces imminent threat from future sea level rise. The Conservancy, with support from the 22nd Agricultural District and City of Del Mar, is enhancing the existing habitat within the basin as a proactive strategy to mitigate sea level rise impacts on the native plant and wildlife community within the lagoon.

In fall, 2018, SDRVC and dozens of determined volunteers removed invasive ice plant from the Brigantine Basin in the San Dieguito Lagoon on Coastal Cleanup Day. Following this event, in December, hearty volunteers helped SDRVC clear the remaining ice plant and invasive sea lavender from the southern half of the Brigantine Basin, in preparation for planting in January.

In January, SDRVC volunteers planted native salt marsh plant species to replace the ice plant and restore this sensitive habitat within the lagoon.

SDRVC held a successful volunteer event in February at the Brigantine Basin with a dozen volunteers from the Solana Beach Presbyterian Church. The crew helped remove approximately 150 pounds of trash from the lagoon, pulled several patches of ice plant, removed the last of the tarping from December, and helped gather the flags from our January plantings. Many thanks to SBPC and their volunteers for their support.

Clevenger Canyon North

In September, March and May, SDRVC assisted the City of San Diego Department of Parks and Open Space in its efforts to remove graffiti from boulders located in this historic and scenic preserve.

Volunteers joined SDRVC and our partners Allied Climbers of San Diego to remove trash and graffiti along the Clevenger Canyon North Trail. With the help of our volunteers and Allied Climbers equipment and know how, SDRVC volunteers successfully removed dozens of pieces of graffiti large and small. We also removed over 100 pounds of trash from the parking area and trailhead.

Special thanks to Ranger Rob Wheeler from the City of San Diego Department of Parks and Open Space for his support and to Adam Kimberly of Allied Climbers for his equipment and leadership. It is encouraging to see the progress volunteers can make.
Fairbanks Ranch

We completed our fifth year of the Fairbanks Ranch restoration project, which includes the area between Fairbanks Ranch and Rancho Santa Fe west of the Black Mountain Open Space, and it is progressing well. The SDRVC is managing this project and partnering with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Native Plant Society-San Diego Chapter (CNPS), Fairbanks Ranch Association, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District and Rancho Santa Fe Association.

While we manage the behind-the-scenes work—applying for and administering grants, coordinating with landowners and project partners, and ensuring permit compliance—Arne Johanson and Bob Byrnes, of CNPS, lead the work on-the-ground.

SDRVC and project partners completed over 5 acres of invasive species removal within the Rancho Santa Fe Association’s Arroyo Preserve under the Association’s NRCS EQIP grant. CNPS volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of service removing Eucalyptus, salt cedar, Arundo, and palm trees and crews from American Conservation Experience (ACE) removed dozens of mature Eucalyptus trees during a chainsaw “sawyer” training class in January 2019. In addition, SDRVC and project partners CNPS and RSF Fire arranged owner-funded invasive species removal over 4.7 acres near the downstream end of the project area.

Our efforts and successes were highlighted in a major article published by the California Native Plant Society.

Gonzales Canyon

Families and people of all ages joined the SDRVC and the City of San Diego in November 2018 to celebrate Family Volunteer Day. For over 26 years, Family Volunteer Day has been held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to “kick-off” the holiday season with giving and service. This year we are celebrated with the help of The Walt Disney Company and generationOn.

We also assisted San Diego Canyonlands in its mission to maintain and enhance public access by trimming brush and eliminating unauthorized trails. On January 20, SDRVC hosted a successful stewardship event in Gonzales Canyon during which 19 volunteers worked together to plant 110 native trees.

On National Trails Day, June 1, 49 enthusiastic volunteers, including 10 children, joined SDRVC, project sponsors REI Outdoors, and partners San Diego Mountain Biking Association and San Diego Canyonlands to repair trails in and tend the native plant vegetation garden planted at the November Family Volunteer Day.
Volunteers repaired the Sword Way Trailhead and main multi-use trail, watered over 200 native plantings, installed plant identification signs in the demonstration garden, repaired erosion around the Sword Way footbridge, and cleared trails of overhanging brush to create safe passage for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

Volunteers were rewarded for their hard work with Ben and Jerry's ice cream, snacks and t-shirts from REI, and raffle prizes (all courtesy of REI Outdoors). Special thanks to the City of San Diego Department of Parks and Open Space, Black Mountain District for their contributions and support! We also appreciate the ongoing support of our own local group of National Charity League volunteers who continue to be among our most committed volunteers.

**River Path Del Mar**

**New Year's Resolution Restoration Project**

We had an excellent planting event at the River Path Del Mar to close out 2018. 16 volunteers planted over 200 new native plants, including a strip of coastal sage scrub habitat. We also created a new seasonal wetland/bioswale on the west end of the site. It was beautiful planting weather and it rained the next day. Many thanks to all who joined us, and to the City of Del Mar Public Works Department for their assistance.

**Creek to Bay Cleanup**

We had a terrific Creek to Bay Event at the River Path Del Mar in April. A dozen employees and their families from SDG&E, and a half dozen families from National Charity League-San Dieguito Chapter.

We removed over 100 pounds of trash and approximately 1,500 pounds of green waste (invasive plants). We also weeded, mulched, and watered our two 2019 planting areas and thoroughly weeded the area we planted on Earth Day in 2018.
San Pasqual Valley

Fenton North Property

The State of California approved a grant of $104,000 to the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the Urban Corps of San Diego who will team up on habitat restoration on the Fenton North Property in the San Pasqual Valley. Funded under the local Corps’ allocation of Prop 68 monies, the grant will be used to remove invasive plant species and enhance riparian habitat function in this critical wildlife-movement corridor. Work will begin in Fall 2019.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which provides a framework to regulate groundwater for the first time in California’s history. The intent of the law is to strengthen local groundwater management of basins most critical to the state’s water needs with an understanding that groundwater is most effectively managed at the local level.

The City of San Diego and County of San Diego entered into a Memorandum of Agreement in 2017 to develop together the San Pasqual Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement is required by the Act. The SDRVC is a member of the Advisory Committee as the environmental stakeholder’s representative.

A kick-off meeting hosted by the City of San Diego and County of San Diego took place on June 6, 2019.

More information on this effort is available at www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/SGMA.

Grant-funded Habitat Restoration Project Inventory

Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum continues to work with staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and San Dieguito River Park JPA to update the inventory of habitat restoration projects that have taken place throughout the San Dieguito watershed, including those in past years. The next step will be to update and expand upon the online interactive story map.

San Dieguito River Watershed Weed Control Coordination Working Group.

The SDRVC Board of Directors approved and executed a Memorandum of Understanding for the San Dieguito River Watershed Weed Control Coordination Group. SDRVC will continue to attend meetings that are held twice a year and include landowners, public agencies, consultants and conservation partners.
Next to Nature Program

We partnered with Heaviland Landscape Management to launch our "Next to Nature" Program to encourage homeowners and businesses, especially those that surround our preserves, canyons, parks and other open spaces, to consider using native plants in their yards. Birds and other pollinators and wildlife will thrive. Restoring hardscape to a natural state reduces stormwater runoff that pollutes our creeks, rivers and the ocean. We developed this program after valuable input from members of our Board of Directors.

Next to Nature Workshop

In October, approximately 20 guests joined SDRVC Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum at the Del Mar Public Library for the first of the SDRVC's Next to Nature sustainable landscaping workshops, presented in partnership with Heaviland Landscape Management.

Jonathan led an interactive presentation and Question & Answer session geared towards helping property owners explore options for DIY or professional landscape renovations on their properties.

Next to Nature Educational Event "How to Convert Your Lawn to Native Plants"

In April, Bryal Hilton of Heaviland Landscape Management taught over 30 residents how to convert their lawns into a drought-tolerant, California native landscape. They learned the basics of turf conversion, including what to expect during the construction process, as well as irrigation requirements and how to select the best plant palette for your garden.

Next to Nature Photography Hike

In April, over 30 participants experienced the beauty of Bernardo Bay near Lake Hodges through the lens of a camera. They joined Bryal Hilton, landscape designer at Heaviland Landscape Management, as she led them on a guided photography hike that explored Escondido's Piedras Pintadas ("painted rocks") trail. As they meandered along the trail, Bryal pointed out the best native plants to place in their gardens as part of the Next to Nature Certification Program.

This 3.8 loop hike provided an opportunity for photographers of all levels to practice their skills. They stopped at selected locations along the trail to photograph the scenery and wildlife. The hike followed Bernardo Bay on Lake Hodges, an important habitat refuge for many native and migratory animal species, particularly birds.
Beach Cleanup with High Tech Middle North County

Students from High Tech Middle School, North County, cleaned up our community at North Beach in Del Mar as a part of their annual service project. Thank you to the students and their teacher, Matt Leader, for choosing the San Dieguito Watershed as their area of focus and service.
EDUCATION

Education Strategic Plan

SDRVC’s Education Committee created a Education Strategic Plan to guide the development of future programs and ensuring the effectiveness of current environmental education curricula. SDRVC staff and committee members met with educators, partners, and stakeholders to create a plan that reflects the wants and needs of the community.

Specifically, the goals of the Education Plan are:

• Provide equal access to the San Dieguito Watershed to all residents and visitors.
• Foster educational experiences and stewardship opportunities to students living in - or visiting - the San Dieguito Watershed
• Leverage SDRVC’s relationships and resources to achieve the largest impact possible
• Develop and maintain relevant educational programs and experiences for the public
• Maintain continual funding to support environmental education programs
• Create and enhance partnerships with local and neighboring watershed communities.
• Provide enrichment opportunities for staff and volunteers to ensure adequate training
• Develop environmental stewards that will protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the San Dieguito Watershed

Watershed Explorers Program

Reality Changers Explorer Hikes

The Conservancy partnered again with Reality Changers, a group dedicated to preparing students for college and life, to provide educational hikes throughout the San Dieguito Watershed. This program was funded by a grant received from the City of Solana Beach.

Students visited four sites within the San Dieguito Watershed. Beginning at Volcan Mountain near Julian, students made their way down the watershed through Del Dios Gorge and Piedras Pintadas in Escondido, and ended at Crest Canyon in Del Mar.

All Tribes Charter School Birding Adventures

All Tribes Charter students experienced Lake Hodges through the lens of birding. Going on a 2-mile hike, students were able to witness the courtship of Grebes and the flight patterns of prolific raptors.
Living Coast Discovery Center Partner Programs

In July, Living Coast Discovery Center visited the Birdwing Open Air Classroom at the San Dieguito Lagoon to provide North County residents a presentation called Seashore Splash. With the guidance of Living Coast Discovery Center, children learned some of the crazy ways tidepool animals are adapted for the rocky shores. With hands-on interaction, students were able to touch, see, and discover what it takes to cling to a slippery home. After the presentation, SDRVC led the group on hike around the San Dieguito Lagoon.

In January, SDRVC presented Science of Flight. Attendees learned what it takes to live in the air from one of the Living Coast Discovery Center's raptor ambassadors. They got close-up look at how feathers, hollow bones, and specially shaped wings adapt birds for flight.

Family Adventure at Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead

SDRVC held an interactive day at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, where participants will learned what it was like to be a pioneering family, how the community functioned through crop production, trading and animals that provided food and milk, and the importance of the natural environment in daily living. As a part of our Watershed Explorers Program, families are encouraged to participate as a whole!

Family Adventure at the San Diego Archaeological Center

Families took a trip back in time at the San Diego Archaeological Center. They learned about archaeology, artifact analysis, and completed the Archaeology Quest at the museum.

Family Adventure at the San Dieguito Lagoon

In March, students engaged in six stations to learn about the importance and diversity of the San Dieguito Lagoon. They observed the diversity of birds found at the lagoon and utilized plant materials collected from the Lagoon to create artwork giving them the opportunity to express their nature experience through art. In addition, students learned about the animals found within the San Dieguito River Park, tested the lagoon's water quality, were led on a hike by a San Dieguito River Park Ranger along the Lagoon Trail.
Microclimates on a Macro Scale

In November, students from High Tech Middle North County (HTMNC) conquered nearly 30 miles of hiking through the Conservancy's Microclimates on the Macroscale Program!

Through a grant from SDG&E, SDRVC partnered with Climate Science Alliance to develop the new program to align with our new Education Strategic Plan. Microclimates on a Macro Scale aims to connect students to the natural world while educating them on the importance of climate science. It consists of a mix of classroom learning and field experiences-mainly, five hikes to Volcan Mountain, Santa Ysabel, San Pasqual Valley, Sikes Adobe to Rattlesnake Viewpoint, and San Dieguito Lagoon.

Students concluded their five-day journey with a celebratory hike to North Beach, Del Mar, where they journaled, received certificates of completion, and enjoyed the perfect weather!

Thank you to our many partners, including the HTmNC, San Dieguito River Park JPA, County of San Diego, and Cleveland National Forest.

San Dieguito Lagoon: Coastal Wetlands Field Ecology Project

Students can visit the San Dieguito Lagoon, learn about the importance of wetlands, and become involved in the conservation of the San Dieguito Watershed as part of the San Dieguito Lagoon: Coastal Wetlands Field Ecology Project funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Partners grant. It asks students to research, carry out field ecology studies, and gather and analyze data to address the complex issue of development and its impacts on our natural environment based on the following scenario:

“A developer wants to build a water park and hotel adjacent to the San Dieguito Lagoon. Based on field ecology studies conducted on the project site – do you support the development of the site (and if so, with what mitigation measures) or should it be preserved to protect its natural resources?”

The project activities in this curriculum are unique in that they allow students to focus on solving a real-world problem at the local level. It includes two site visits to the San Dieguito Lagoon to conduct field assessments and collect data. Field data collected for this project will contribute to the watershed-wide San Dieguito Citizen Science Monitoring Program and provide a unique opportunity for students to participate in real world monitoring and management of the San Dieguito River Park.
Students from Cathedral Catholic High School took to the field to investigate the intricacies within our watershed through our Coastal Wetlands Field Ecology Project. By testing water quality, surveying local birds, and setting up wildlife cameras, students gathered data for analysis back in the classroom.

**Citizen Science Monitoring Program**

The Citizen Science Monitoring Program expands our current practice of project-level monitoring by organizing specially trained volunteers, called Citizen Scientists, to monitor biological resources on lands owned by the SDRVC and San Dieguito River Park. This program engages people of all ages in plant and wildlife surveys using protocols developed and approved by local researchers and regulatory agencies.

**SDRVC Internship Program**

The Conservancy was fortunate to host UCSD undergraduate researcher and Conservancy intern Ryan Blaich throughout the 2018-2019 academic year.

Ryan, a graduating senior in UCSD's Environmental Systems (ESYS) Program joined the Conservancy during UCSD's Fall quarter 2018 to conduct assisted research on the effectiveness of riparian habitat restoration on wildlife usage, including nesting occupancy by the Federally-listed as Threatened least Bell's vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus), within the Santa Fe Valley area of the San Dieguito River watershed. Ryan completed six months of field research under the supervision of Conservancy Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum sampling riparian community architecture and species composition in restored and unrestored sites within the Santa Fe Valley Area. Ryan then integrated the Conservancy's Citizen Science bird survey data into his data analysis to determine the effect of habitat restoration treatment on bird usage.

**Critters on Camera**

Fifth grade students from High Tech Elementary North County used Citizen Science to discover more about the River Park! Through in the field activities with the SDRVC's Ana Lutz and Jonathan Appelbaum and the River Park's Leana Bulay, students learned about animal tracking, fire ecology, and invasive plants. Back in the classroom, HTeNC science teacher (and SDRVC Board Member), Shelley Glenn Lee led her classes to process wildlife camera photos.

**Rare Plant Treasure Hunt**

SDRVC held an event in March at the Santa Fe Valley Open Space. 15 volunteers (and one reporter from the Coast News) joined us, along with staff from CNPS and the Crosby Habitat
Management Area preserve manager Jennifer Kendrick from Rincon Consultants, for our very first rare plant "Treasure Hunt."

The "Treasure Hunt" was a resounding success. We located several species of sensitive plants and collected valuable data for preserve management. The volunteers had a great experience and learned rigorous survey methods and plant ID skills. This "Treasure Hunt" was a first for SDRVC, but will not be the last.

Water Bugs Survey

We had about as much fun as humanly possible in March during our Water Bugs event at the Santa Fe Valley Open Space /Crosby Habitat Management Area.

Five terrific citizen scientists (including two young future entomologists) joined us to dip our nets in the river and explore the incredible world of creatures that live below the surface. Local naturalist and environmental educator Bob Forthun treated our group to dragonfly nymphs, crane fly nymphs, midges, water striders, and water boatmen (among other species).

Crest Canyon BioBlitz

We had a great time at the SDRVC's 2019 BioBlitz at Crest Canyon Open Space Preserve in April.

The BioBlitz, organized in conjunction with the global City Nature Challenge, brought out eager volunteers on a beautiful Sunday morning. Together we documented the biodiversity of the City of San Diego's Crest Canyon Open Space Preserve using the iNaturalist smartphone app. We recorded dozens of species of plants (including several rare species), as well as several birds, reptiles, and insects. This data will help land managers in their efforts to plan future land management activities in the Canyon.

All data collected by our citizen scientists can be viewed on our website at http://sdrvc.org/what-we-do/citizen-science/. We upload our data into the regional South Coast Multi-taxa database maintained by the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program.

Exploring Our Sense of Place

The Exploring Our Sense of Place (ESP) program allows participants to experience the San Dieguito River Valley in all seasons, to follow its path from mountain to sea, to encounter plant, animal and human inhabitants, and to connect to the River Valley with their heart and minds. In
2018-2019, a sold-out class of 26 participants enjoyed their experiences throughout the watershed and graduated in May during a ceremony at the San Dieguito Lagoon. Over 250 people have participated in this acclaimed program.

A Pollinator’s Paradise

Not only are painted lady butterflies beautiful, but they also contribute to the health of our surrounding ecosystems. Painted ladies are both pollinators and a food source, making them a significant species within the food chain. Due to loss of habitat and climate change, painted lady populations are declining.

SDRVC developed a new program, “A Pollinator’s Paradise” targeting the Kindergarten through 2nd Grade population, that will focus on the life cycle of painted ladies from caterpillar to butterfly, creation of habitat, and the release of painted ladies once fully grown.

Through hands-on experience and watching the larva grow into an adult, students will understand the importance of painted ladies and environmental stewardship.
RECREATION AND OUTREACH EVENTS

The SDRVC holds many recreation and other outreach events throughout the year. Below we describe our most popular activities.

Coast to Crest Trail Challenge

From July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, the San Dieguito River Valley SDRVC partnered with REI, Adventure 16 and Hike San Diego to challenge hikers and outdoors enthusiasts to get to know the Coast to Crest Trail.

The free Coast to Crest Trail Challenge consists of five hikes throughout the river valley. Each hike has a designated “selfie spot” for challengers to document their progress.

At designated “selfie” spots on each trail participants were required to take a photo as evidence they had completed the hike. Once they had completed all five hikes, they emailed all their selfies to sdrvc@sdrvc.org for verification.

The hikes were: the Santa Ysabel Preserve East Kanaka Loop trail, Raptor Ridge segment of the Coast to Crest Trail at San Pasqual Valley, Piedras Pintadas community trail, the Ramona Grasslands Preserve Trail and the Santa Fe Valley segment of the Coast to Crest Trail.

Everyone who successfully completed the Challenge received a SDRVC certificate, SDRVC decal and sticker, 23% off coupon from REI, $10 in Adventure Bucks from Adventure 16, a unique patch from Hike San Diego and a bandana depicting the Coast to Crest Trail—plus bragging rights for accomplishing five cool outdoor adventures!

Enthusiasts were encouraged to share their selfies and other photos on Instagram and Facebook with the hashtag #C2CChallenge.

During the challenge period, over 300 hikers and bikers completed the challenge. Five hikers completed all five hikes of the challenge in one day – an extraordinary accomplishment!

In addition, Trish Boaz led guided hikes for a hearty group of 30 people on each of the trails pointing out local flora, fauna and landmarks along the trails.
New Coast to Crest Trail Challenge Patch

The third round of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge kicks off in July 2019, and we needed a new patch to award finishers. We turned to Travis Sevilla’s Visual Arts and Design class at Canyon Crest Academy and created a contest for students to create a new patch design.

We ultimately chose two winners: Angie Pei, whose design will be featured on the C2C Trail Challenge patch, and Steven Zheng, who designed a new patch with our logo!

Chris Kehoe Trail Dedication

Several representatives from SDRVC, including current and former Board Members, were thrilled to attend the dedication of the Senator Christine Kehoe Trail and Wetland Buffer, hosted by the 22nd District Agricultural Association, last month. The new trailhead is located on the south side of the Del Mar Fairgrounds and Jimmy Durante Boulevard.

The $5 million wetland restoration project and trail, completed in July 2017, turned a former parking lot into 9.51 acres of coastal salt marsh and 1.67 acres of upland habitat (the transitional zone along the banks of the water), which is now home to fish and birds, including osprey, herons, pelicans, terns, quails and more. The wetland project also completed a key segment of the Coast to Crest Trail.

With the planting of the wetland buffer and trail complete, it was dedicated to Senator Christine Kehoe, who served San Diego County from 2004-2012 in the State Senate, from 2000-2004 in the State Assembly and 1993-2000 on the San Diego City Council. She is known as a passionate defender of open space, trails and environmental protection.

Trails & Ales

This year, the SDRVC partnered with the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, the Escondido Creek Conservancy, Hike San Diego, San Diego Canyonlands and the Volcan Mountain Foundation to showcase two unique aspects of San Diego County -- our biodiversity and our craft beer.

The 6-months-long, sold-out Trails & Ales hiking series kicked off on October 6th with a hike on the Mule Hill segment of the Coast to Crest Trail. After working up a thirst, our hikers headed to Plan 9
Alehouse in Escondido to celebrate their 1st Anniversary with beer floats and tasters of their most popular beers.

**Wonders of the Watershed with Dr. Eleanora Robbins**

Eleanora “Norrie” Robbins, a geologist and lecturer at San Diego State University, who spent more than three decades with the U.S. Geological Survey, took us through a virtual tour of the geology of the San Dieguito Watershed. Participants discovered more about our watershed through the wonders of geology and more.

Norrie was awarded a Point of Light by the George Bush I administration in 1989; she was the recipient of the Times Enexin award from the Greek Aerospace Medical and Space Research Association in 2000; and she and her family were inducted into the International Educator’s Hall of Fame in 2015.

**Hike for Health!**

How do you maintain a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit? Through hiking of course. In July, hikers joined SDRVC and UMTR2ME (You Matter 2 Me) for a beautiful stroll next to the San Dieguito Lagoon while they discussed the importance of mental health. They observed some of the most unique natural resources within San Diego County and ended the hike with a self-reflection/meditation period.

**World Rivers Day: Screening & Stroll**

SDRVC, partnering with The Escondido Creek Conservancy, celebrated World Rivers Day with a screening of the documentary Lost Rivers and a stroll along the channelized portion of Escondido Creek. The documentary "examines hidden waterways in cities around the world and introduces us to people dedicated to exploring and exposing them."

As described by one film critic, Lost Rivers is "a reminder that ecology is not just about clean air and water but the right of urban dwellers to enjoy the spiritual and esthetic benefits of liberated rivers." The film also explores the economic benefits of restored waterways.

**Leave No Trace**

The guiding principles of Leave No Trace are for every teen, from the avid hiker to the indoor gamer, and teach younger generations on how to be stewards of our limited natural resources.
In June, Al Bates, a Leave No Trace (LNT) Master Educator, led trekkers on a hike at Gonzales Canyon and educated them about outdoor ethics, their importance, and how to responsibly enjoy nature and cultural resources through interactive exercises.

**Furry Friends Hike**

Furry friends and their owners strolled through Crest Canyon in May while learning more about local habitats, wildlife, and the organizations that preserve the area.

**Rattlesnake Safety Classes**

On June 8, residents were treated to fun and educational classes for beginning and seasoned outdoorsmen and women. Snake researcher, Steve Bledsoe, gave in-depth presentations on identifying dangerous snakes in San Diego County and what to do if they are encountered in the wild.

**Herp Hikes**

Our May Herp Hike took us on a five-mile walk around Lake Hodges, where we spotted some lizards and a skink! Local expert Jeff Nordland shared his knowledge about local reptiles and amphibians along the way.

**REI 2018 #OptOutside Event**

Over 25 people wanting to work off their Thanksgiving calories showed up at the Piedras Pintadas community trail for our 3rd Annual #OptOutside with the REI on Black Friday. We had a great time leading this hike and enjoying the time spent in nature.

**Full Moon Hikes**

Family-friendly hikes by the light of the moon were held at the San Dieguito Lagoon in August and April at the San Dieguito Lagoon. These events were very popular and attracted 30-60 hikers each time.

**Valentines on Volcan**

A little rain and chilly weather didn't stop this group from enjoying an invigorating, heart-pumping hike up Volcan Mountain in February. Colleen Bradley, Executive Director of the Volcan Mountain Foundation and Trish Boaz, SDRVC Executive Director, assisted by SDRVC volunteer, Bill Augustus, co-led a hike from the Volcan Mountain Nature Center to the outdoor classroom near the Sky Island Trail. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all in front of a raging fire at the Nature Center.
Clevenger Canyon South "Fire Followers" Wildflower Hike

SDRVC’s "Fire Followers" Hike in March was a blast. Fifteen hikers joined us on a perfect morning at the City of San Diego’s Clevenger Canyon South Trail. The hikers were treated to a terrific display of wildflowers and flowering shrubs including fields of California poppies, lupines, jewel flowers, Parrish’s phacalia, Ramona lilacs, and rarities like fire poppies and Padre’s shooting stars. Hikers learned information about these species from volunteer naturalist and professional ecologist John Messina of Mira Costa College.

A Ship in the Woods (ASITW)

In January, A SHIP IN THE WOODS presented GREY MATTER, an event which highlighted the impetus of stress, challenges and disconnection. Additionally, it unveiled ideas on how we can overcome and champion a peaceful state of mind. SDRVC participated in the event by spreading awareness of environmental stewardship and local habitat through the distribution of native seed bombs. The show additionally illuminates the neuroscience that also examines how mindfulness and other techniques positively affect the grey matter in our brain which can change our focus, attention and overall health. The audience explored interactive installations, experience nature, the winding paths, sounds of the flowing creek, while being an observer of their present state of mind.

San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority 30th Anniversary Celebration

The San Dieguito River Park celebrated 30 years of environmental preservation, recreation and education on Sunday, June 9th, 2019. SDRVC participated in the Community Fair that showcased over 25 partner organizations.
California Trails & Greenways Conference

Education Manager Ana Lutz and Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum planned and facilitated a breakout session at the California Trails and Greenways Conference, held in April at the Viejas Resort in Alpine. During the session, titled "Awareness to Action: Creating Stewards from User Groups," Ana, Jonathan and panelists Alyson Wright (REI), Ben Stone (San Diego Mountain Biking Association) and Joel Aca (San Diego Hikers) discussed how user groups can be engaged and inspired to become involved in parkland/trail stewardship through programs such as SDRVC's recreation and conservation programs. It was an SRO audience that also asked questions and received advice from the panelists.

Follow the Water – 100th Anniversary of the Lake Hodges Dam

SDRVC was proud to participate in Follow the Water, a series of educational and entertaining activities to mark the 100-year anniversary of the building of the Hodges Dam. Follow the Water is a collaboration of The Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society, Del Mar Historical Society, the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society and The Fletcher Family Foundation.

In November, the Del Mar Historical Society presented a Follow the Water Symposium featuring Andy Strathman, PhD, California State University San Marcos and Co-editor of the Journal of San Diego History and Trish Boaz, Executive Director of SDRVC.

SDRVC & Helen Woodward Furry Friends Hikes

Hike leaders are needed to take our furry friends (dogs) on a hike, while their homes are being cleaned at the Animal Woodward Animal Center (HWAC). The Furry Friends morning walks will take place once a month, second Wednesday of each month, in the early morning for approximately an hour walk.

Training orientations were held in 2018-2019 (March and May) The interest was great, and approximately 10 volunteers completed the documentation, training and background checks needed to participate. Our first furry friends hike with HWAC took place on June 2, 2019 at the Lusardi Loop Trail.
The SDRVC was recognized as a 2018 Top-rated Non-profit by Great Nonprofits. Since its founding in 2007, Great Nonprofits has quickly grown into the leading provider of reviews and ratings of nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S.

GuideStar, the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, bestowed its highest level of recognition – Platinum – on the SDRVC. Millions of people will be able to see the SDRVC’s metrics on its GuideStar Nonprofit Profile and through Guidestar’s network of more than 190 websites and applications, including:

- Thousands of foundation staff members
- Dozens of online giving portals
- All major U.S.-based donor-advised funds
- Some 7 million visitors to guidestar.org each year
- Nearly 20 leading community foundations

Additional Outreach, Awareness and Communications conducted in 2018-2019 are described in the Performance Goals section of the Annual Report.
FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP SUSTAINABILITY

Membership-Donor Development

General Membership

During the last 30 years, the SDRVC has attracted over 1,400 members. During 2018-2019, new members joined our ranks and we continue to grow.

Revenue generated by new membership and annual renewals ranging in the range of $35 to $5,000 accounts for over one-third of the SDRVC’s annual budget. This year, through our increased outreach efforts and membership renewal campaigns, the SDRVC generated over $385,000 for our conservation, education and recreation programming. We appreciate the support of our members, who are integral to the success of the SDRVC’s programs.

Unrestricted Donations

Donations not tied to membership and contributed by supporters for general purposes are Unrestricted Donations. This year, unrestricted donations in the amount of $56,870 were given to the SDRVC.

Grants

California Fire Safe Council

The Conservancy was also awarded $18,664 in funding from the California Fire Safe Council's Fire Prevention Grant Program to control invasive plants within Lusardi Creek County Preserve beginning in fall 2019. The Conservancy will contract the Urban Corps of San Diego to conduct this work following the end of nesting season in September.

State Coastal Conservancy Proposition 1

In March, SDRVC was awarded $71,826 in Prop. 1 funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Fairbanks Ranch - Rancho Santa Fe Invasive Plant Eradication and Stream Enhancement Project. The funds will also be used to contract crew labor from the Urban Corps to conduct invasive plant removal activities beginning in fall 2019.
REI

In 2019, SDRVC received a total of $11,823 from REI, including $6,823 from REI’s Loving Our Local Outdoors campaign and a $5,000 grant to support our restoration and trail rehabilitation projects at Gonzales Canyon.

SDG&E Environmental Champions Grant

Through a grant from SDG&E, SDRVC partnered with Climate Science Alliance to develop the new program to align with our new Education Strategic Plan. Microclimates on a Macro Scale aims to connect students to the natural world while educating them on the importance of climate science. It consists of a mix of classroom learning and field experiences-mainly, five hikes to Volcan Mountain, Santa Ysabel, San Pasqual Valley, Sikes Adobe to Rattlesnake Viewpoint, and San Dieguito Lagoon.

generationOn/Points of Light

A stellar group of hard-working, energetic volunteers joined us for Family Volunteer Day at Gonzales Canyon in November. They removed invasive species and planted natives as part of this worldwide day of service funded by a $1,000 grant from generationOn.

Malk Nature Fund

SDRVC received $15,000 from the Malk Nature Fund to cover the cost of the environmental documentation required to move forward on the River Path Del Mar Phase 3 project. Phase 3 will extend the River Path Del Mar from the Grand Avenue Overlook east to the Crest Canyon Trailhead.

City of Solana Beach Community Grant

The Conservancy partnered again with Reality Changers, a group dedicated to preparing students for college and life, to provide educational hikes throughout the San Dieguito Watershed. This program was funded by a grant received from the City of Solana Beach.

Grants to Partners for SDRVC Projects

Urban Corps of San Diego – State Proposition 68

SDRVC’s partner, the Urban Corps of San Diego, was awarded $53,500 in Proposition 68 funding for the Fairbanks Ranch - Rancho Santa Fe Invasive Plant Eradication and Stream Enhancement Project. The funds will be used to contract crew labor from the Urban Corps to conduct invasive plant
removal activities beginning in fall 2019. SDRVC will receive $7,097 for project management and coordination services.

The Urban Corps was also awarded $104,000 of Proposition 68 funds to assist SDRVC in its efforts to remove invasive vegetation and restore to native plants at the SDRVC’s Fenton North property in San Pasqual Valley. SDRVC will receive $12,400 for project management and coordination services.

Urban Corps of San Diego – CalFire Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Grant

In May 2019, SDRVC partners Urban Corps of San Diego and the Rancho Santa Fe Association were awarded $275,000 for materials and Urban Corps labor to install and maintain 450 native riparian trees within the Association’s Arroyo Preserve both within and surrounding the 2018-2019 invasive species (e.g. Eucalyptus) removal area. This award will also contribute to satisfying a requirement of the Rancho Santa Fe Association’s 2018 Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) grant for invasive plant eradication and riparian habitat restoration within the Arroyo Preserve.

WILDCOAST – Ocean Protection Council’s Once Through Cooling Mitigation

On May 23, the State Ocean Protection Council approved a grant for $1,081,062 to WILDCOAST to restore 42 acres of degraded wetland habitat surrounding two marine protected areas (MPAs) in San Diego County – Batiquitos Lagoon and San Dieguito Lagoon. Over $210,000 of this amount will be awarded to SDRVC to prepare feasibility studies, preliminary project designs, and supporting documentation for 3 wetland enhancement and restoration actions on “Orphan” sites within the San Dieguito Lagoon as well as planning and implementation for a 4th watershed restoration project located on a nearby tributary to the San Dieguito Lagoon. More information about this project is included in the Staff Work Plan.
This year's River Valley Fest was held at L'Auberge Del Mar. Luckily the rain from the day before cleared out and we enjoyed a beautiful afternoon and evening overlooking the ocean while we celebrated our accomplishments and success -- all made possible by you, our incredible donors, supporters, and partners!

Donors contributed over $100,000 to the Conservancy’s conservation, education, and recreation programs.

SDRVC presented the "Heart of the Conservancy" award to Joan Griffin and her late husband, Monty, for their contributions to the Coast to Crest Trail. We also awarded the "Corporate Partner of the Year" award to REI in recognition of their commitment to our mission.
**Wax & Wine**

Our fifth annual Wax & Wine was held at the Knorr Candle Shoppe in Del Mar. Guests enjoyed gourmet food from Urban Kitchen Catering (featuring cuisine from award-winning Kitchen Urban Group restaurants, including Cucina Enoteca, Cucina Urbana and Cucina Sorella). Wines and craft beers chosen by the experts were paired with these dishes. The duo, Topaz serenaded guests with live violin and classical guitar music as they strolled among the lush gardens. Knorr artisan David Ramirez showed guests how to make their own beeswax candle, which they took home.

**Volunteer Program**

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

As a huge thank you, SDRVC celebrated its volunteers at Viewpoint Brewing located in Del Mar. It was also an opportunity for people interested in SDRVC to meet us.

**North County Philanthropy Council Awards**

We honored Lee Haydu and Randee Warren, administrators of the 2017-2018 Exploring Our Sense of Place Program at the North County Philanthropy Council's 2017 31st Anniversary Volunteer Awards Luncheon at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido in early November.

**Annual Volunteer Appreciation Award**

This year's San Dieguito River Park and San Dieguito River Valley SDRVC volunteer appreciation party was held during the San Dieguito River Park’s 30th Anniversary Celebration held at Sikes Adobe in June.

The SDRVC honored Jane Lea Smith for her hard work and leadership during the 2018-2019 Exploring Our Sense of Place Program.

**Thanks for Giving Potluck**

Since 2017, SDRVC hosts an annual potluck for its volunteers near Thanksgiving to show appreciation for all of the time the volunteers give SDRVC. This year we held the event at Felicita Park in Escondido.
Volunteer Training

SDRVC held a volunteer training session in March for interested citizens to learn about ways to inspire and educate the youth about the San Dieguito Watershed. We covered topics ranging from water quality testing, animal tracking, student/trail safety, and more.
The SDRVC 2019-2020 Staff Work Plan was developed in coordination with the Operating Budget adopted by the Board of Directors.

CONSERVATION

Habitat Stewardship and Restoration

During FY 2019-2020 SDRVC will continue to work with other organizations and public and private stakeholders to strategically and sustainably combat invasive plants and restore habitat throughout the San Dieguito watershed through grant funding, volunteer events and public education.

Current SDRVC invasive control and restoration projects are in Fairbanks Ranch, Gonzales Canyon, the Brigantine Basin, and River Path Del Mar Phase II. In partnership with other watershed groups SDRVC will continue to treat Arundo and other invasive plants in the Santa Fe Valley area and San Pasqual Valley upstream.

The major emphases for next year will be the grant-funded projects at Fairbanks Ranch in Lusardi Creek and Fenton North in San Pasqual Valley. Below is the work plan for these projects.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Task #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFSC USFWS SCC SDRVC</td>
<td>Secure Lusardi County Preserve Right-of-Entry (ROE) permit.</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Schedule and host educational hike / tour of Lusardi Creek Preserve Project area for neighbors and members of the community.</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Arrange and host tour for State Coastal Conservancy Project Manager.</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Coordinate necessary project signage with landowners.</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SDRVC Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum will supervise all contracted Urban Corps labor involving biomass removal. Mr. Appelbaum may periodically monitor CNPS volunteer activities such as herbicide application, but will not officially supervise these activities.</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ROE Solicitation for holdout parcels</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 weeks of Urban Corps labor to cut and chip Arundo in Lusardi County Park. (+ 2 days of RES [Rancho Environmental Services] tree work near Artesian Rd. and powerlines).</td>
<td>Sept 15 2019 – Nov 15 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CNPS volunteers can spray resprouts as early as October 15 depending on growth of resprouts (likely November 1).</td>
<td>Sept 15 2019 – Nov 15 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Quarterly – Qualitative monitoring and photomonitoring</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>(5 - 6 weeks of Urban Corps Arundo removal, acacia removal, chipping, palm limbing, etc.)*. Note: Although not anticipated, raptor nest surveys by USFWS biologists may be necessary because of noise.</td>
<td>September 2019-March 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>CNPS volunteers may spray Arundo as early as weather and growth of resprouts allows CNPS volunteers may drill palms and acacia concurrent with felling or may follow felling at any time afterwards.</td>
<td>January 1, 2020-June 30, 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fenton Ranch North

The proposed Fenton North Project, located within the San Pasqual Valley will be conducted on SDRVC property that encompasses a significant portion of the Santa Ysabel and Guejito Creek channel, floodplain, and associated riparian habitat as well as adjacent upland habitats. This project will include the reduction of invasive species within the floodplain of Guejito Creek and Santa Ysabel Creek (tributaries of the San Dieguito River) through the eradication of invasive plant species including arundo, tamarisk, castor bean, and tree tobacco. This restoration will improve the riparian community as a corridor for wildlife and for the least Bell's vireo and habitat for the southwestern arroyo toad, a federally listed endangered species. Urban Corps crews will eradicate invasive plants and restore the riparian habitat.
Work will be scheduled between October 15, 2019 – March 15, 2020). The initial biomass removal would entail 4 weeks of Urban Corps labor to cut and chip arundo and tamarisk beginning in the fall and work could commence once daytime highs drop below 90 degrees for safety (approximately November 1). The second phase, herbicide application, would take place no sooner than 4 weeks after completion of the initial biomass removal and require 2-4 weeks to complete (estimated dates: January 1, 2020 - January 15/31, 2020).

Once Through Cooling (OTC) Grant Projects

- SDRVC will work with WILDCOAST to finalize grant documentation and work plans for the OTC projects that are summarized below.

- **Project 1: I-5 / Via De La Valle Interchange / Del Mar Center Brackish Wetland Project**

  The general intent of this OTC project would be to plan and design a wetland restoration project to improve the hydrologic and ecological functioning of the San Dieguito Lagoon at the discharge of an existing flood control / stormwater drainage channel located at the intersection of Interstate 5 and Via De La Valle adjacent to Del Mar Center to improve and enhance the exchange of freshwater into the high marsh and create / enhance brackish wetland habitat within the project area. Such a project would prevent stagnation within the existing flood control channel and improve groundwater recharge of the upper marsh habitat through contouring to create channel sinuosity replicating more natural tidal sloughs and freshwater / saltwater exchange patterns. In addition to brackish marsh restoration, this OTC Project would involve invasive plant eradication and wetland buffer enhancement. Rough boundary estimates of the restoration and enhancement area measures approximately 2.66 acres in size.

  Initial Grant Award (EST): September 23, 2019  
  Project Kick Off Meeting: September 30, 2019  
  Task 1: Feasibility Study  
  Initial subcontracting October 1 – October 31, 2019  
  SDRVC Review of Draft Feasibility Study: December 16, 2019 – December 31, 2019  


  Task 3: ROE Coordination with landowners and easement holders: February 1, 2020 – May 1, 2020.

- **Project 2: NCTD 'Triangle' Wetland Restoration Project**

  The general intent of this project would be to restore and enhance relic salt marsh habitat within the 'NCTD Triangle'. The 'Triangle' is disconnected from tidal influence and type converted to disturbed wetland habitat. The OTC project would identify measures to restore and enhance habitat function in the degraded wetland area including invasive plant removal.
and native planting. Rough boundary estimates of the restoration and enhancement area measures 3.69 acres in size.

Initial Grant Award (EST): September 23, 2019
Project Kick Off Meeting: September 30, 2019

Task 1: Feasibility Study
Initial subcontracting October 1 – October 31, 2019
SDRVC Review of Draft Feasibility Study: December 16, 2019 – December 31, 2019


- **Project 3: North Brigantine Basin Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Transitional Habitat Project**

The general intent of this OTC Project would be to support upslope marsh migration as a sea level rise adaptation strategy. Along the margin of the existing salt marsh, OTC Project would eradicate approximately 0.40 acre of invasive vegetation (e.g. iceplant [Carpobrotus edulis]) enabling upslope marsh migration as a sea level rise adaptation strategy. The OTC Project would also enhance (via invasive plant removal) adjacent ‘transition zones’ comprised of upland surrounding habitat measuring approximately 0.67 acre. Following the completion of project design and entitlement, this OTC Project would Install 250 native salt marsh plantings (including species such as Salicornia pacifica, Distichilis spicata, Frankenia salina, Jaumea carnosa, and Lymonium californica).

Initial Grant Award (EST): September 23, 2019
Project Kick Off Meeting: September 30, 2019

Task 1: Feasibility Study
Initial subcontracting October 1 – October 31, 2019
SDRVC Review of Draft Feasibility Study: December 16, 2019 – December 31, 2019


Project 4: Gonzales Canyon Open Space Watershed Restoration @ Stallion’s Crossing

The general intent of this OTC Project is to restore approximately 0.93 acre of upland habitat/watershed adjacent to an unnamed seasonal tributary stream located within Gonzales Canyon Open Space Preserve through eradication of invasive plants and revegetation with native plants. This OTC Project would develop restoration project designs resulting in the installation of up to 300 one-gallon container plants of assorted native coastal sage scrub / oak woodland plant species, engage a minimum of 50 students annually from park poor communities.

Initial Grant Award (EST): September 23, 2019
Project Kick Off Meeting: September 30, 2019

Task 1: Restoration Plan
City of S.D. staff review of draft restoration plan: November 1 – November 30, 2019.
SDRVC Incorporates City comments on draft restoration plan and prepares final conceptual restoration plan for Gonzales Canyon: December 1 – December 15, 2019.

Task 2: ROE Coordination: Concurrent with Task 1. (October 1 – December 15, 2019)

Task 3: Project Implementation:
Task 3C: Site Maintenance (e.g. irrigation and weed control): March 1, 2020 – November 1, 2020.

OTC Project Area Map
Integrated Regional Water Management Program

The City of San Diego was awarded grant funding for its Emergency Water Storage and Conveyance Intertie Project that will improve water quality at its Hodges Reservoir, so high quality water can be delivered to the County Water Authority’s regional aqueduct.

The City has asked the SDRVC to help with public outreach to be funded by the grant. Staff will closely monitor this project, as well as other proposed IRWMP projects within the San Dieguito River watershed.

San Pasqual Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee

SDRVC will continue to represent the environmental community on this Advisory Committee. The current schedule is to meet quarterly starting in October 2019 on the first Thursday of the month. The City and County are in the process of selecting a contractor to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Selection of the consultant is contingent on the approval by the City’s Environment Committee (June 13, 2019) and City Council (July 7, 2019).

Next to Nature Program

We will continue our partnership with Heaviland Landscape Management on the "Next to Nature" Program.

Land Acquisition

Regional Leadership

Staff will continue to assist the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP) in developing monitoring and management protocols for use in our Citizen Science Program. In addition, staff will continue to help them implement priority activities in the San Dieguito River watershed.

In late spring 2018, we reconvened the San Dieguito River Watershed Weed Control Coordination Working Group. Meetings will be held twice a year and include landowners, public agencies, consultants and conservation partners.
EDUCATION

Education Strategic Plan

The SDRVC ’s Education Manager, Ana Lutz, the Board of Directors and Education Committee are creating an Education Strategic Plan to guide the development of future programs and ensuring the effectiveness of current environmental education curricula. SDRVC will meet with educators, partners, and stakeholders to create a plan that reflects the wants and needs of the community. Staff will collaborate with The Escondido Creek Conservancy, which recently completed a similar effort.

Watershed Explorers

The Watershed Explorers Program will continue and expand in 2019-2020.

Activities will focus on recruiting and maintaining our team of Watershed Explorers Educators and filling the calendar with visits by youth from throughout the San Diego region.

Watershed Explorers Experiences

We will continue to expand the Watershed Explorers Experiences that are being conducted throughout the next year with Climate Change Alliance, Outdoor Outreach, Skyhunters, Southwest Field Herping Association, Family Kayak, Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network, Ocean Protection Council, and the Living Coast Discovery Center, to name a few. More partners will be added as opportunities develop.

San Dieguito Lagoon: Coastal Wetlands Field Ecology Project

We will continue to offer this program to high schools throughout the County during 2019-2020.

Citizen Science Monitoring Program

Throughout FY 2019-2020, the SDRVC will be working with its many partners and the SDMMP to gather more data about the ecology of properties owned by the SDRVC , and others located at Sycamore Canyon, Fairbanks Ranch, Santa Ysabel West, Bernardo Mountain and Bernardo Bay. Staff will continue to promote stewardship within the valley and encourage increased scientific engagement with volunteers.

Exploring our Sense of Place

We will continue to offer this program during 2019-2020.

A Pollinator’s Paradise

We will continue to offer this program during 2019-2020.
RECREATION AND OUTREACH EVENTS

Recreation

The SDRVC will continue to coordinate with the River Park, City of San Diego, County of San Diego and other partners to complete recreational trails and segments of the Coast to Crest Trail including:

River Path Del Mar Phase 3—The City of Del Mar is proposing to extend the River Path Del Mar from the Grand Avenue Pier to the Crest Canyon Trail at San Dieguito Road. We will assist in coordinating efforts and seek additional funding for this project. The City is processing the environmental review and permit processing for this project.

Osuna Valley—Completing the segment of the Coast to Crest Trail from El Camino Real east to San Dieguito Road through Osuna Valley will be a major focus of the SDRVC. Surf Cup received its permit to construct the trail from the City of San Diego in 2019.

The SDRVC continues to offer its support to the River Park JPA to finalize the bridge crossing and trail through the City of San Diego-controlled alignment on the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club leased area.

The passage of Proposition 68 in 2018 made state grants available for construction of trails and other projects. The Acquisitions and Trails Committee will be working closely with the River Park JPA staff to seek funding for this project.

Outreach Events

The SDRVC will continue to hold many recreation and other outreach events throughout the year. We will continue to offer our popular programs. Opportunities for additional outdoor nature programs arise during the year and staff will determine which events fit within the SDRVC’s mission and work plan before proceeding.

COMMUNICATIONS

The SDRVC works closely with its conservation partners to plan, promote, and participate in a wide variety of outreach and awareness programs and events throughout the river valley. Staff will continue to promote and facilitate these activities.

The SDRVC will continue to utilize independent marketing contractors for promoting its programs and utilize all forms of communication including the following:

Website and Social Media

Staff will continue to maximize awareness through our social networking efforts, primarily focused on our website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linkedin, and other applications.

Staff will emphasize Facebook campaigns to gain more *likes* and to encourage an interactive community. In the meantime, there are several social media avenues that reach different markets that will be considered.
Monthly e-Newsletter Riverscape

The SDRVC will continue to send monthly. The SDRVC will also send periodic special e-Blasts to groups based on interest.

Currents Newsletter

The SDRVC will continue to send its newsletter to members three times annually, and a special edition Annual Report in the summer.

News Releases

The SDRVC will continue to send relevant news releases to news organizations.

Community Calendars

The SDRVC will continue to post its events on local social calendars and will establish a new online master calendar on the redesigned website.

Brochures

The SDRVC will update its brochures (as needed) and continue to disperse the literature at events and at new venues.
FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP SUSTAINABILITY

Membership and Donor Development

Through the invaluable support of our members and other supporters, we have successfully preserved land previously threatened by development, and over 48 miles of the Coast to Crest Trail have been completed. However, challenges and opportunities remain.

Staff, in coordination with the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board, will continue efforts to generate membership and develop a strong base of donors, supporters and partners. These efforts will generate much needed resources to support the Conservancy’s operations, acquire land for permanent open space protection, and develop the remaining 22 miles for completion of the Coast-to-Crest Trail.

SDRVC will continue to partner with diverse organizations and corporations in San Diego County to expand its reach inside and outside the watershed.

Corporate Sponsorships - In 2019-2020, staff will continue its efforts to attract corporate sponsorships to support our programs. Some of our Corporate Sponsors are listed below.

Grants

Staff will continue to seek grant funding for the SDRVC’s conservation, education and recreation programs throughout the year.

Special Event Revenue

River Valley Fest

The River Valley Fest will be held on October 13, 2019 at the L’Auberge Del Mar.

Volunteer Program

We will continue to nurture and expand our volunteer program, including training, recognition and other activities and events.
### 2018-2019 Performance Measures Results

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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Recreation</strong></td>
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<td># Public Hikes</td>
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<td>Special Event Revenue (Gross)</td>
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</table>
Conservation

# Volunteer Restoration Events

1. July 13    River Path Del Mar Volunteer Project
2. September 8 Clevenger Canyon Cleanup
3. October 25 Rancho Santa Fe Preserve Bird Survey
4. October 27 River Path Del Mar Volunteer Project with NCL
5. November 17 Family Volunteer Day at Gonzales Canyon
6. December 1 Brigantine Basin Stewardship Project
7. December 29 RPDM New Year's Resolution Habitat Restoration
   Work Party
8. January 12 Brigantine Basin Planting Event
9. January 20 Gonzales Canyon Planting Event
10. March 9   Clevenger Canyon North Graffiti Removal
11. April 20  Santa Fe Valley Restoration Project with Rincon
12. April 27  Creek to Bay Clean up event at River Path Del Mar
13. May 2     High Tech Middle North County Service Project
14. June 2    National Trails Day with REI and SDMBA

Education

# Education Events Held

1. July 14    Trails & Tales Historical Series San Pasqual Battlefield
2. July 21    Seashore Splash with Living Coast Discovery Center at the
              Birdwing (Boaz)
3. July 21    San Diego Botanic Garden Watershed Model Tabling
4. July 27    California Teachers Summit at CSUSM
5. August 11  Watercolors of the Watershed at the Birdwing (Watershed
              Explorers)
6. August 16  Citizen Science Walk at the Crosby (Appelbaum)
7. September 20 Soaring Minds Home School Class
   9/24, 9/27, 10/1, 10/11, 10/15, 10/18, 10/22, 10/29, 11/1, 11/8
   11/15, 11/29, 12/6, 1/10, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21,
   3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9
8. September 22 Reality Changers Watershed Explorers Experience – Volcan
    Mountain
9. September 26 Rock Creek Home School Class
   10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28, 12/5
   12/12, 12/20
10. October 4  High Tech Elementary Field Trip San Dieguito Lagoon
11. October 12 High Tech Middle Presentation
12. October 13 Reality Changers at Lake Hodges
13. October 16 High Tech Elementary Presentation
14. October 18 Next to Nature Presentation at Del Mar Library (Appelbaum)
15. October 19 High Tech Elementary Field Trip – Ramona Grasslands
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>16. October 23</td>
<td>High Tech Elementary Field Trip</td>
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<td>17. October 27</td>
<td>Reality Changers at Piedras Pintadas</td>
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<td>18. October 29</td>
<td>Presentation at High Tech Middle North County</td>
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<td>19. October 30</td>
<td>Presentations at High Tech Elementary</td>
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<td>20. November 2</td>
<td>C2C Trail Expedition with High Tech Middle North County</td>
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<td>21. November 6</td>
<td>C2C Trail Expedition with High Tech Middle North County</td>
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<td>22. November 9</td>
<td>C2C Trail Expedition with High Tech Middle North County</td>
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<td>23. November 13</td>
<td>C2C Trail Expedition with High Tech Middle North County</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. November 16</td>
<td>C2C Trail Expedition with High Tech Middle North County</td>
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<td>25. December 8</td>
<td>Reality Changers – Crest Canyon</td>
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<td>26. December 12</td>
<td>Del Dios Academy Presentations</td>
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<td>27. December 19</td>
<td>Presentations High Tech Elementary North County</td>
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<td>28. December 19</td>
<td>Presentations High Tech Middle North County</td>
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<td>29. January 14</td>
<td>Cathedral Catholic High Presentations</td>
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<td>31. January 26</td>
<td>Science of Flight with Living Coast Discovery Center</td>
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<td>32. February 1</td>
<td>Field Ecology Program with Torrey Pines High School</td>
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<td>33. February 7</td>
<td>Hidden Valley School Career Day</td>
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<td>34. February 12</td>
<td>San Diego Charter School Consortium Classroom Visit</td>
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<td>35. February 13</td>
<td>Bird Survey with Citizen Scientists Crosby HMA (Appelbaum)</td>
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<td>36. February 13</td>
<td>Post-Site Visit with Cathedral Catholic High – Field Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>37. March 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Migratory Bird Project with SD Cooperative Charter</td>
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<td>38. March 6</td>
<td>STEM in Your Backyard</td>
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<td>39. March 13</td>
<td>Scholarship Prep Presentation</td>
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<td>40. March 14</td>
<td>Mission Middle School Career Day</td>
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<td>41. March 19</td>
<td>Canyon Crest Charter School</td>
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<td>42. March 25</td>
<td>Scholarship Prep Butterfly Showcase</td>
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<td>43. March 30</td>
<td>Watershed Explorers at the San Dieguito Lagoon</td>
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<td>44. April 1</td>
<td>Del Mar Hills Pollinator Program</td>
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<td>45. April 3</td>
<td>Bear Valley Middle School Career Day</td>
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<td>46. April 6</td>
<td>Botany Presentation for ESP Class (Appelbaum)</td>
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<td>47. April 13</td>
<td>SD Archaeological Center Watershed Explorers Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>48. April 16</td>
<td>Scholarship Prep Pollinator Program</td>
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<td>49. April 23</td>
<td>Next To Nature Presentation by SDRVC &amp; Heaviland (Lutz)</td>
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<tr>
<td>50. April 23</td>
<td>Watershed Explorers with Volcan Mountain Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>51. April 27</td>
<td>Next to Nature Hike at Bernardo Bay with Heaviland</td>
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<tr>
<td>52. April 28</td>
<td>City of SD Nature Challenge with the NAT (Appelbaum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>53. May 10</td>
<td>All Tribes Charter Lake Hodges</td>
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<tr>
<td>54. May 22</td>
<td>Watershed Explorers at Lake Hodges</td>
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<tr>
<td>55. May 29</td>
<td>Rincon Middle School Career Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recreation**

**# Public Hikes**

1. **July 28**  | Hike for Health with You Matter to Me (Lutz)                                    |
2. **August 26** | Full Moon Hike at the San Dieguito Lagoon (Boaz)                                |
3. **September 8** | REI Collaboration Hike (Lutz)                                                   |
4. **September 22** | World Rivers Day with The Escondido Creek Conservancy (Lutz)                    |
5. October 6 Trails & Ales – Mule Hill (Lutz)
6. November 10 C2C Trail Challenge Guided Hike at Santa Ysabel Preserve (Boaz)
7. November 17 Hike with National Charity League (Lutz)
8. November 23 Opt Outside Hike co-hosted with REI (Appelbaum & Lutz)
9. December 1 C2C Trail Challenge Guided Hike – Ramona Grasslands (Boaz)
11. February 9 Valentines on Volcan Hike with VMF (Boaz)
12. March 8 Crosby HMA Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (Appelbaum)
13. March 16 C2C Trail Challenge Hike at Piedras Pintadas
14. March 23 Fire Followers Hike at Clevenger Canyon South (Appelbaum)
15. April 4 Pamo Valley Trail with Anza Borrego Naturalist Club (Boaz)
16. April 6 Herp Hike
17. April 13 C2C Trail Challenge Hike at Santa Fe Valley
18. May 18 Furry Friends Hike at Crest Canyon
19. June 8 Hike with Hike for Beer at Clevenger Canyon South
20. June 22 Leave no Trace Hike with Al Bates

Outreach, Awareness & Communication

# Speaking Events/Presentations

1. July 7 Wonders of the Watershed at Del Mar Library (Dr. Eleanor Robbins)
2. July 28 Fairbanks Ranch Outreach Event re Fuel Reduction Program (Appelbaum)
3. August 11 Wonderfest in Julian (Boaz)
4. August 22 Ramona Trails Committee (Boaz)
5. September 22 World Rivers Day with The Escondido Creek Conservancy (Lutz)
6. September 30 Rancho Days at the Arroyo Preserve for Restoration Project (Appelbaum)
7. October 11 Engineers Without Borders (Lutz)
8. November 7 Lake Hodges Dam Centennial Presentation at Del Mar Town Hall (Boaz)
9. November 14 Presentation at the San Diego Management & Monitoring Group at Living Coast Discovery Center (Appelbaum)
10. December 18 Interview with UT Reporter J. Harry Jones re Education Programs (Boaz/Lutz)
11. January 12 ASITW Gray Matter event (Lutz)
12. January 27 Forest Health Roll-Out Event (Appelbaum)
13. February 5 I Love a Clean San Diego Career Panel (Appelbaum)
14. March 2 Volunteer Training (Lutz)
15. March 18 SDG&E Environmental Champions Presentation (Lutz)
16. March 26 Climate Science Alliance Summit
17. April 6 Unite the Tribe Tabling Event (Kilian Lutz)
18. April 13 Luiseno Intertribal Earth Day Event
19. April 18 SDGE Employee Earth Day Event (Boaz/Appelbaum)
20. April 22 ViaSat Earth Day Event
21. April 23 Mission Bay Senior High School Earth Day Event
22. April 24  California Trails & Greenways Conference (Appelbaum & Lutz)
23. April 29  Presentation on Plants at Casa de las Companas (Appelbaum)
24. April 30  CSUSM Career Panel (Lutz)
25. May 4    ESP Hike & Graduation (Boaz)
26. May 4    Clean Water Event at Encinitas Library (Lutz)
27. May 19   Escondido Earth Fair
28. May 23   Teen Volunteers in Action (Boaz)
29. June 1   Lipay Earth Day (Lutz)
30. June 1   Friends of Balboa Park Carousel (Boaz)
31. June 2   RB Alive!
32. June 8   Lusardi Creek Community Tour (Appelbaum)
33. June 8   Rattlesnake Safety Class (Lutz)
34. June 9   SDRP JPA 30th Anniversary, Volunteer Appreciation and Tabling event
35. June 12  Boy Scouts of America – San Diego Presentation (Lutz)
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<tr>
<th>SDRVC OPERATING BUDGET APPROVED JUNE 19, 2020</th>
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<td>Grant Dollars</td>
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<td>Special Event Revenue (Gross)</td>
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