

**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Project Title: San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead Improvements
Project Location: Central San Diego County on U.S. Forest Service land in the Cleveland National Forest between Ramona, the Cuyamaca Mountains, the Capitan Grande Indian Reservation, and the community of Julian.

Lead Agency: San Diego River Conservancy

DATE: October 3, 2008

Notice is hereby given that the San Diego River Conservancy (Conservancy), an independent, non-regulatory agency within the Resources Agency of the State of California, is proposing to adopt a Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Section 21000 et seq., Title 14 of the California Public Resources Code) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (Section 15000 et seq., California Code of Regulations, Title 14). NEPA compliance is being completed by the US Forest Service and because the project received state grants under Proposition 40, River Parkways, CEQA compliance is also required. The Project site is not on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Project Description

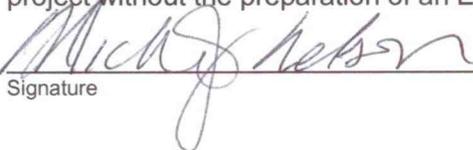
This project includes construction/improvement of as much as 2.27 miles of trail descending the western San Diego River Gorge from the end of Thornbush Road near San Diego County Estates to near the San Diego River; rehabilitation of approximately 3 miles of trail ascending the eastern San Diego River Gorge to a trailhead previously called Saddleback; and closure and restoration of as much as 3.36 acres of user defined trails. The project also includes the construction of trailhead improvements of less than 1 acre primarily on already disturbed land at the western San Diego River Gorge trailhead including a public restroom, a shaded picnic area, and a pad to park a vehicle for a volunteer host, trash receptacle and drinking fountain. The project also includes creation of trail to a vista point to ADA standards.

Environmental Review and Comment

The Initial Study for the project evaluated potential environmental effects of the project and no significant impacts were identified. On the basis of the Initial Study, a draft Negative Declaration was prepared. The Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration are being circulated for public review and comment and are available for review at the Conservancy's Administration Office located at 1350 Front Street, #3024 San Diego, CA 92101; the Conservancy's website at www.sdrc.ca.gov; and at the Ramona Public Library, 1406 Montecito Road, Ramona, CA 92065.

Written comments on the proposed Negative Declaration must be submitted to Mr. Mike Nelson, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy, 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, San Diego, CA 92101 or (mnelson@sdrc.ca.gov) on or prior to November 3, 2008. Comments of all responsible agencies are also requested.

At its meeting on **November 21, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at 202 C Street, 12 floor in Conference Room B**, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy will hold a public hearing on the project and consider the project, the draft Negative Declaration, and any comments received. If the Governing Board finds that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, it may adopt the Negative Declaration. This means that the Governing Board may proceed to consider the project without the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.


Signature

Michael J. Nelson, Executive Officer
Title