



September 18, 2015

**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

California Coastal Conservancy  
Chairman, Douglas Bosco  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support letter for San Diego Canyonlands' Grant Proposal

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of the City's Park and Recreation Department Open Space Division, this letter is to express our strong support for San Diego Canyonlands' grant proposal to plan habitat restoration and trail improvements for public access in twelve urban canyons within the open space areas managed by our division. Along with two experienced planners from our Department, I attend the monthly Canyon Enhancement Planning Committee meetings facilitated by San Diego Canyonlands where we review and provide input on project plans as well as discuss other issues such as permitting and community-based collaborations.

The planning and rehabilitation of our City's urban canyons is integrated throughout the Urban Design and Conservation Elements of our General Plan (Adopted 2008) and will serve many of our important goals including:

- Increased access to the coast via an inland trail system;
- Enhanced biodiversity;
- Improved water quality;
- Expanded environmental education and recreation; and
- Inspired stewardship of coastal resources.

I would also like to confirm that the City of San Diego intends to be the lead agency for CEQA and reviewing the environmental analysis and site development permit application(s) that will eventually follow this planning effort. The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department Open Space Division is committed to internal management of the CEQA/permitting process as well.

Additionally, the Park and Recreation Department has opened an account and deposited \$52,000 toward permit application review and environmental processing for canyon projects that are eventually submitted as part of the planning efforts and environmental studies associated with San Diego Canyonlands' grant proposal.

Thank you very much for considering San Diego Canyonlands' funding request for this important project and for your interest in restoring and revitalizing San Diego's wonderful canyons.

Sincerely,

Chris Zirkle  
Deputy Director





September 20, 2015

California Coastal Conservancy  
Chairman, Douglas Bosco  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support letter for San Diego Canyonlands' Grant Proposal

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of Ocean Discovery Institute, I would like to express our strong support for San Diego Canyonlands' grant proposal to plan habitat restoration and improvements for public access in 12 urban canyons including Manzanita Canyon in the community of City Heights.

Since 2007, San Diego Canyonlands has been a valuable partner in rehabilitating degraded urban canyons in City Heights. They have collaborated on many of our educational programs and engaged City Heights' residents into organized stewardship groups for their local canyons. We also meet routinely with other community organizations as part of the City Heights Canyons and Communities Alliance to coordinate our collaborative work and ensure strong community engagement and support.

The canyons distributed throughout the city of San Diego are unique ecological spaces for a variety of habitat types including coastal sage scrub and riparian wetlands. They are important points of entry and filtration for polluted urban runoff that flows along creek beds and ultimately impacts our beaches, bays, estuaries and ocean waters. As a non-profit that uses these canyons as classrooms to teach urban underserved youth in City Heights about the health of our coastal ecosystems and importance of conservation, Ocean Discovery Institute is very supportive of efforts that will plan and eventually restore the ecological functions of canyons throughout our urban watersheds.

The proposed project will bolster San Diego Canyonlands' ability to plan revitalization of 12 canyons. Their proposal includes evaluation of solutions that mitigate the impacts of urban hydro-modification throughout our watersheds including possible expansion of wetlands within the canyons. This research could be particularly important in rehabilitating the runoff filtration functions of our urban canyons.

In addition to years of experience in the engagement of residents in sustained stewardship of their neighborhood canyons, San Diego Canyonlands has also been effective in bringing together community and agency stakeholders in deciding enhancements, such as habitat restoration priorities, which trails to keep or improve, and which social trails to close to defragment sensitive habitats.

Thank you for consideration of our input and support for San Diego Canyonlands' proposal.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Goodwin  
Associate Director