

ESCONDIDO CREEK AND SAN ELIJO LAGOON  
WATERSHED PRESERVATION AREA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MOU is entered into by the Cities of Encinitas; Escondido; the Escondido Creek Conservancy; the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, the County of San Diego; the San Dieguito Water District; the San Elijo Joint Powers Authority; the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy; the Santa Fe Irrigation District; and the City of Solana Beach ("Participants") with respect to future planning and development in the Escondido Creek and San Elijo Lagoon watershed preservation area beginning at the eastern most boundary and extending west generally along Escondido Creek to the Pacific Ocean. See Attachment "A" generally defining the boundaries of the subject watershed ("watershed"). The effective date of this MOU is 9/15/08.

1. RECITALS

1.1 The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate cohesive watershed planning and management including, but not limited to:

- a) Restoration, enhancement and preservation of natural resources;
- b) Prevention of pollution and enhancement of water quality;
- c) Support of responsible and sustainable development of water resources, including infrastructure, transfer, storage, conservation, and recycling; and
- d) Promotion of coordinated education, outreach and passive recreation.

1.2 With continuing growth in San Diego County and in particular in North County, there is an increasing need to protect open space, habitat and water quality and at the same time permit responsible land development in appropriate locations in the watershed.

1.3 Unwise or ill-planned land development can lead to many problems including unnecessary loss of open space, fragmentation and ultimate degradation of irreplaceable waterways, coastal lagoons and the Pacific Ocean.

1.4 A healthy, natural environment is attractive to new business and is an anchor for

existing businesses in the County, as well as a foundation for overall quality of life for residents in the watershed.

1.5 The watershed, in many remaining undeveloped areas, is a vibrant ecosystem consisting of interconnected plant, bird and animal life with each species depending directly or indirectly on a proper balance in the ecosystem, including undeveloped land and unpolluted waters. Natural lands, habitat, watercourses and wetlands in the watershed provide invaluable services in controlling flooding, filtering surface water, recharging ground water, and adding and conveying nutrients for a myriad of plant, insect and animal species.

1.6 Free flowing and unfettered watercourses convey natural sands through the San Elijo Lagoon to the Pacific Ocean, eventually ending up on North County beaches. Long term protection of such watercourses is in the interest of both coastal and inland residents.

## 2. TERMS

To help better plan for and encourage a coordinated comprehensive conservation strategy in conjunction with responsible development in the watershed, the Participants agree on the following cooperative efforts:

2.1 To give early notice to the Participants to this MOU of proposed development that would impact the watershed and to encourage comments and early participation in the review process for such proposed development projects.

2.2 To participate in bi-monthly meetings to share information and resources in developing a coordinated, comprehensive watershed protection strategy with particular attention given to water quality, habitat quality, fire prevention and preservation of contiguous habitat throughout the watershed. These efforts would include identifying funding needs and potential funding sources to assist in conservation strategies.

2.3 To encourage the preparation and submission of joint grant applications by particular Participants, as is appropriate, to foundations, as well as regional, state, and federal agencies for funding to assist in planning efforts and in acquisition of sensitive sites in the watershed. The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and Escondido Creek Conservancy can jointly or separately take the lead on preparation and submission of grant applications.

2.4 To consider appropriate mitigation strategies for use within the watershed.

2.5 It is not the purpose of this MOU to: (1) Create any additional regulatory requirements or additional approval processes for proposed development projects that would be located in the watershed; or (2) Cause any delay in any development application process.

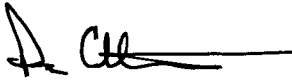
2.6 Through this MOU, the Participants intend to develop watershed-wide conservation strategies which the Participants may implement voluntarily.

2.7 A new entity can become a Participant to this MOU by unanimous vote of the designated Participant representatives approving the addition of the new entity. Each Participant shall have one vote.

2.8 The Escondido Creek and San Elijo Lagoon Watershed Preservation Area Cooperative Agreement dated 9-18-02 is hereby rescinded in its entirety.

DATE: 6-17-08

CITY OF ENCINITAS

By: 

Its: City Manager

DATE: 7-17-08


CITY OF ESCONDIDO

By: 

Its: Mayor

DATE: 6-26-08

ESCONDIDO CREEK CONSERVANCY

By:   
Its: ~~Executive Director~~ *President*  
*Board of Directors*

DATE: 6/11/08

OLIVENHAIN MUNICIPAL  
WATER DISTRICT

By: 

Its: President, Board of Directors

DATE: 9/15/08

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

By: 

Its: Director, Parks and Recreation

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_


SAN DIEGUITO WATER DISTRICT

By: 

Its: General Manager

DATE: 5-29-08

SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS  
AUTHORITY

By: 

Its: General Manager

DATE: 6-11-08

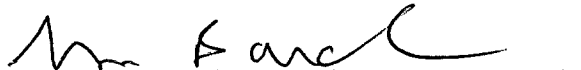
SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY

By: 

Its: Executive Director

DATE: 5-23-2008

SANTA FE IRRIGATION DISTRICT



By: Michael J. Bardin

Its: General Manager

DATE: 6-2-08

CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

By: 

Its: City Manager