



Friends of the
San Dieguito River Valley
P.O. Box 973, Del Mar, CA 92014

February 28, 2010

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Mayor Jerry Sanders
City of San Diego
11th Floor, 202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Sanders,

We are San Diego residents and members of the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley, an incorporated non-profit founded in 1986 to advocate for preservation of the River Valley. We ask you to support the City Attorney's determination that Water Utility funds can be used to compensate the San Dieguito River Park for management of the Lake Hodges watershed. San Diego's critical water needs will continue to be enhanced by this compensation and by the continued preservation of the River Valley.

We object to the City abandoning its obligation to protect the River Valley. The City was instrumental in creating the boundaries for this magnificent park which provides not only the preservation of a critical watershed, but also an increasingly rare natural area where all San Diego citizens can hike and ride horseback from the East County town of Julian to the Coast, enjoying bird, fish and other wildlife habitats, and finding respite from the relentless urbanization of open space. Because of the benefits to Lake Hodges watershed, it seems reasonable to us to use Water Utility funds to continue the City's contribution to the River Park. Moreover, it would be reasonable to use those particular funds to allow the park to thrive because of the multiple benefits it would bring to the citizens of San Diego.

Can you imagine the City of San Diego without a Balboa Park, or the country without a Grand Canyon or its other natural resources? This is the time to preserve open space for future generations, to continue supporting one of the City's finest long-term grass-roots efforts, and for you to be known as a mayor, who recognizes that, in harsh financial times, it becomes even more important to preserve quality-of-life legacies, not destroy them.

Sincerely,

Ann Gardner,
Torrey Pines Community
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858 755-6061

Candice Bowman,
Carmel Valley Community
Planning Area
858 509 1516

Mary Farrell,
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