



**October 8, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Eric Bowlby
Executive Director, San Diego Canyonlands
E-Mail: eric@sdcanyonlands.org
Phone: 619-284-9399**

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY AWARDS \$300,000
to non-profit SAN DIEGO CANYONLANDS
TO PLAN REHABILITATION OF TWELVE OF SAN DIEGO'S CANYONS**

On October 1st, at their meeting in Fort Bragg, the California Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors approved up to \$300,000 to plan trails, habitat restoration, signage and other amenities in twelve of San Diego's urban canyons. These include **Maple Canyon (Bankers Hill), Mission Hills Canyon, Florida and Switzer Canyons (North Park), Juniper Canyon (South Park), Ruffin Canyon (Serra Mesa), Shepherd and Rueda Canyons (Tierrasanta), Navajo Canyon (Navajo), Gonzales Canyon (Carmel Valley), Manzanita Canyon and the Oak Park Branch of Chollas Creek (City Heights).**

Please see attached map.

There are dozens of canyons throughout the City of San Diego through which storm water runoff is funneled on its way to the coast. Clean canyons with healthy native vegetation can play a role in filtering out pollutants before storm water reaches the coastal beaches. Restoring the habitats will also benefit the City of San Diego's wildlife and species conservation goals. **Ten of the twelve canyon are within the Multiple Species Conservation habitat preserve.**

"Trail improvements in these canyons have an excellent potential of linking to regional trails including 'Coast to Crest' trails for the San Diego River and the San Dieguito River Parks", said Eric Bowlby, Executive Director of San Diego Canyonlands. "We'll be looking for trail connections that link other canyons and parks too, such as Maple Canyon in Bankers Hill to Balboa Park", he added.

San Diego Canyonlands worked on the grant proposal with the City's Park & Recreation Department Open Space Division and the Mayor's office.

"We are very thankful that the Coastal Conservancy is investing in our City's wonderful canyons", said Mayor Kevin Faulconer. "In addition to water quality and wildlife benefits, our canyons are important for recreation and access to nature for neighborhoods throughout our city. Last fiscal year we set aside \$52,000 for the environmental review process once these canyon enhancement plans start coming forward from the community stakeholders."

"Once the community has agreed on enhancement plans for their neighborhood canyons, we'll be applying to the San Diego River Conservancy and the California Coastal Conservancy to implement the projects using Prop. 1 funds."

California Proposition 1, is the 'Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act' passed by voters in 2014.

For more information contact Eric Bowlby: Phone: 619-284-9399, Mobile: 619-204-0753 or e-mail at eric@sdcanyonland.org.

Exhibit 2: Canyon Locations

