



Media Release

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

Massive Cleanup of Trash in San Diego River Ecological Reserve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAN DIEGO – Today the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board is assisting the [San Diego River Park Foundation](#), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the City of San Diego to remove approximately 25,000 pounds of trash from the San Diego River and its floodplain in the Grantville area of Mission Valley. The affected area is an ecological reserve in the midst of dense commercial and residential development upstream of Qualcomm Stadium.

The San Diego River supports a sensitive ecosystem, recreation, and fish consumption, all of which are threatened by the massive waste deposit. The trash poses a significant threat to public health and the environment of the San Diego River and beaches if not quickly removed because it is highly susceptible to being spread downstream across habitats and roadways by rain events.

“The health of the San Diego River is a direct reflection of the region. We applaud the River Park Foundation, City of San Diego, and their public and private partners for organizing this cleanup,” said David Gibson, Executive Officer of the San Diego Water Board. “The River should be a place for residents to safely explore and a refuge for wildlife. It is not a de-facto substitute for housing and mental health services,” said Executive Officer Gibson.

The Water Board is stepping up to assist State and local agencies and non-governmental organizations, but this case exemplifies a regionwide challenge that is being addressed head-on.

The waste material is leftover after law enforcement cleared out a large transient encampment. Among the debris was human waste, drug paraphernalia, batteries, propane canisters, tires and other hazardous materials. Approximately 18,000 pounds of trash have already been removed, and the San Diego River Park Foundation estimates approximately 80,000 pounds of trash remain on site. The goal today is to remove 25,000 pounds, and subsequent cleanups will remove the rest.





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The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for preserving, enhancing and restoring California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. For more information on the San Diego Water Board please visit its [website](#).

For more information on conditions of the San Diego River, see:

1. [Fish tissue sampling in the San Diego River](#).
2. [Biological communities in the of the San Diego River watershed](#)

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