



# Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley

# VALLEY ALERT

Volume XIV Issue 1

February 2001

## Words and Deeds

The Del Mar Fair Board set out a few months ago to update its Master Plan, and, after several months of data gathering, its consultants have offered a first glimpse at what the plan might be. Besides renovating the facilities (which are indeed in need of repair), the Board wants to meet the perceived needs of a growing region, while being aware of and committed to environmental considerations. The entire property rests in the San Dieguito River Valley Flood Plain, at the western edge of the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Park.

The alternative to increased and more intensified use of the Fairgrounds facilities, which will bring ever larger numbers of people to an area already choking on traffic, is that the Fair Board acquire land elsewhere in the County, to take their expanded services to the actual population centers.

### Off-site land acquisition

Unable to find sufficient acreage on its property to site a state-of-the-art training track, the Fair Board Master Plan consultants recommend the purchase of land toward the east on which to locate a new training track adequate for 3500 horses, (an increase of 52%), their stables, staff, and transportation equipment.

### Buffer zone

A 100 ft. buffer zone along the River is called for by the Coastal Commission. The consultants provided for this buffer, but Board Member Bob Vice questioned the willingness of the Board to vote for this legal requirement. Board Member Barry Nussbaum called it an "extraordinary offer."

When you pay your taxes on April 15, do you call this an "extraordinary offer" to the Federal Government, or the fulfillment of an obligation that comes with responsible citizenship?

### Wetlands

The eastern edge of the Fairgrounds contains several acres of wetlands. Why these wetlands are there is well documented in the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Valley Restoration Plan. The hydrologic system that operates downstream of Interstate 5 is shown in the map on Page 2, and gives a graphic model of what would happen to waters in the event of a flood. The length and the density of arrows represent the velocity and

The next meeting of the Fair Board  
Ad Hoc Master Plan Committee:

**April 4, 1 pm**

**Agenda: Alternative Concepts of  
Development**

distribution of flow. Because Interstate 5 forms a major dam across the river valley, the flood flow would be confined to the narrow opening under the freeway and would expand as it emerges under the bridge. Paving the wetlands just west of the freeway, as the Master Plan proposes, would speed up the water flow and create both excessive erosion of the Fairgrounds very own property and increased stress on the Railroad and Highway bridges, as well as the beach properties at the river mouth.

### Trailers.

Over the years the Fair Board has used garishly colored semitrailers in the wetlands to advertise fairground activities to freeway traffic. Such advertisements are banned along federally funded highways. Further, they are a form of development that requires a permit from the Coastal Commission. In February the Commission issued an order for the removal of the trailers.

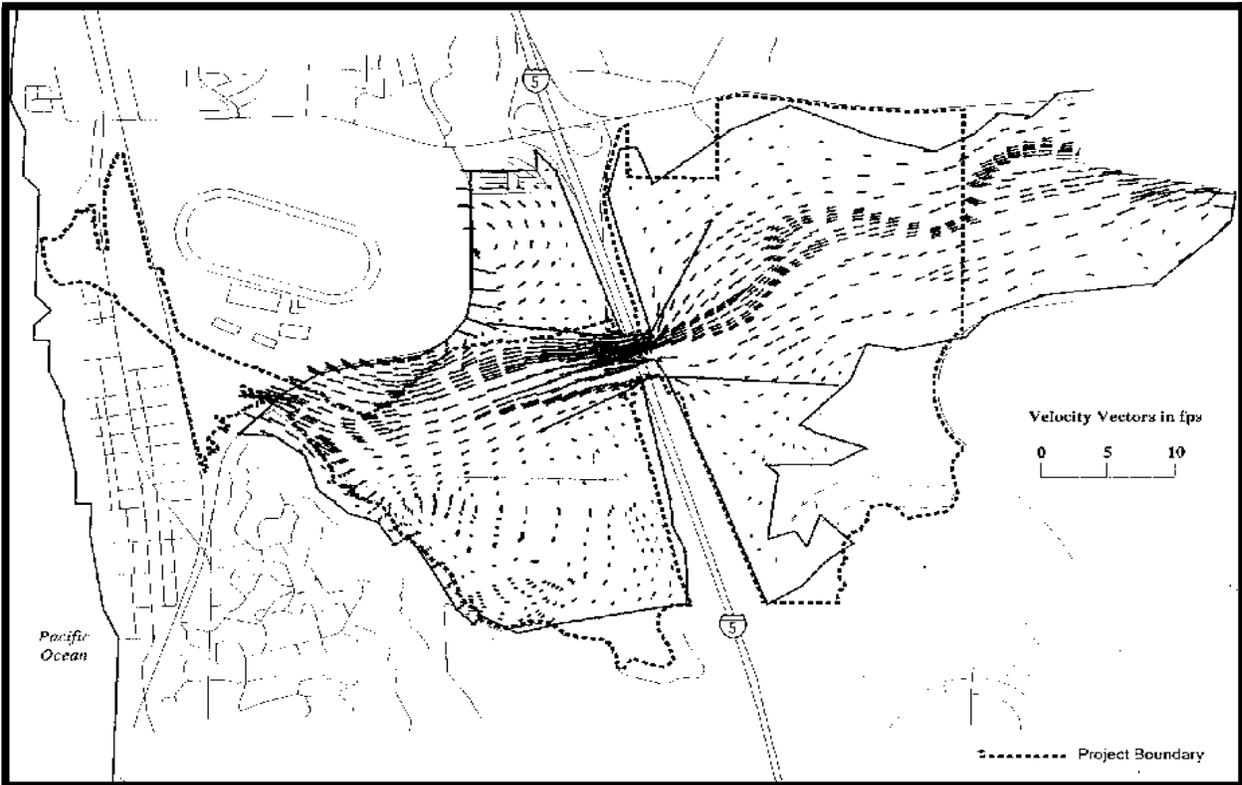
In this first presentation of the Master Plan, we are pleased to see respect for the wetlands buffer zone, but we will continue to advocate the inclusion into the wetlands of the parking lots south of Jimmy Durante Blvd. as demanded by the Coastal Commission. The Fair Board may proclaim a commitment to the environment, but words alone are not enough. We expect deeds.

—Jacqueline Winterer

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Map showing velocity and distribution of flood waters. See Wetlands Page 1



Lower San Dieguito River – Proposed Project Effective Flood Area Visualization with 20,000 cfs

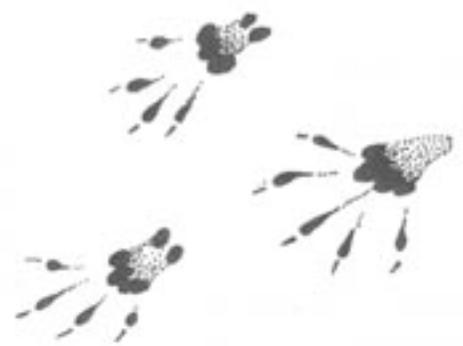
## ***Back by Popular Demand...***

The Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley will once again host two educational field trips this spring:

**Saturday, March 3, 8:30 am**

Alice Goodkind, founder of the Friends, will lead a bird watching tour of the East Pond.

Please call 755-4460 for more information or to reserve one or more of 20 available spaces.

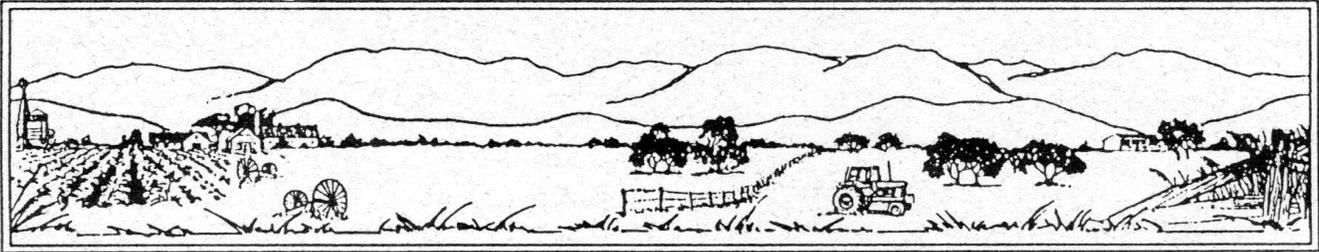


**Saturday, March 24, 1:00 pm**

Jerry Winterer and John McGowan will lead a walk along Torrey Pines State Beach, discussing erosion and marine life.

Meet in the parking lot of Torrey Pines State Beach.  
For more information, call 755-4460.





## **SAN PASQUAL VALLEY: THE VISION?**

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of San Diego County and the San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy

**Saturday March 17, 2001**

**9:30 to 11:00 am — Public Forum and Discussion**

**11:00 to 1:00 pm — Bus Tour of the Valley**

Location: Casa de las Campanas — 18655 West Bernardo Drive

Parking: across the street in Rancho Bernardo Community Park.

Please do not park at Casa de las Campanas

San Pasqual Valley is an Agricultural and Open Space Preserve owned by the City of San Diego Water Utilities Department. Unseen below the surface of this historic valley is a large, sandy aquifer, claimed to have a water capacity greater than that of the Lake Hodges reservoir. Surrounding the valley are areas of pristine habitat, rare coastal chaparral. People in the entire San Diego region will be affected by decisions concerning land use in this valley and in the surrounding area. Recommendations for the future regarding the preservation of agriculture, protection of habitat, generation of revenue, enhancement of water quality, will be discussed at this Forum. Participants will include resource people from the San Diego City Council, City Water Department, City Real Estate Assets, City Planning Department, and from the River Valley JPA.

Bus Tour—Limited seating by reservation. For information call: (619) 275-1147

### **Status of Wetland Restoration**

Implementation of the Wetland Restoration Program in 150 acres at the mouth of the the San Dieguito River Valley is dependent on funding from Southern California Edison (SCE), which in 1991, was given a coastal development permit on condition that it mitigated for impacts to fishes caused by the operation of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3. The energy crisis in California and the possible bankruptcy of SCE call into question the source of funding for the restoration project, since there appear to be no sheltered funds set aside.

The following is SCE's response to questions from the Joint Powers Authority of the San Dieguito River Valley about the status of the funds:

*Operational costs for Southern California Edison, including Marine Mitigation expenditures are paid for through California Public Utilities authorized customer rates. There are no separate reserves or trust funds established for Marine Mitigation projects. Marine Mitigation costs are budgeted on an annual basis based on anticipated work to be accomplished in the upcoming year. These budgets are subject to management review and approval.*

# Now is the time to renew your membership

The VALLEY ALERT is the Newsletter of the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley, a citizens' group, incorporated in 1986, whose purpose is to preserve and protect open space in the San Dieguito River Valley system through the legislative process.

***Board of Directors:***

*Jacqueline Winterer*

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**Add your voice and become a Friend of the San Dieguito River Valley — before it's too late.**

\$25 Individual  
\$50 Sponsor  
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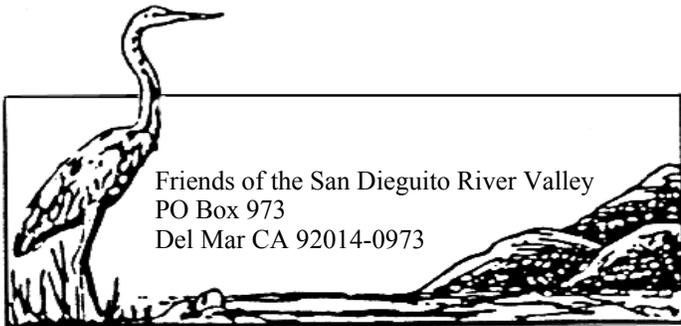
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