

SUMMARY

The First San Diego River Improvement Project (FSDRIP) is located within San Diego's Mission Valley area along a 7000-foot section of the San Diego River, from Qualcomm Way west to Highway 163. FSDRIP is the mitigation site for a 100-year flood control project completed in 1988, and funded through an agreement with owners of property benefitting from the flood control. The mitigation required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under the Federal Clean Water Act, included replanting and permanently preserving natural riparian and upland habitat values impacted during construction of flood control improvements. Specifically, 26.8 acres of riparian woodland, 9.7 acres of freshwater marsh, and 8.7 acres of open water are required to be maintained in perpetuity within the limits of FSDRIP. FSDRIP refers to the area covered by the Army Corps of Engineers permit and conditions, which is the flood control channel, revegetated channel banks, and buffer zones. The adjacent development areas are referenced in this document as the FSDRIP Specific Plan area.

The FSDRIP Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) documents FSDRIP natural resources existing at the time of permit compliance as defined by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provides for their future protection and sustainable management. Upon City Council adoption, this NRMP becomes the operational document for maintenance and management of FSDRIP and is consistent with the Mission Valley Community Plan (1985).

The Natural Resource Management Plan addresses four key areas of FSDRIP use: natural habitat; flood control; utility corridor (sewer and Mission Valley trolley); and public uses. All allowable FSDRIP uses will be consistent with preservation of the natural habitat values. Guidelines for FSDRIP use include: avoidance of damage during utility corridor and flood control maintenance; fencing of FSDRIP limits during new construction on adjacent properties; replanting of disturbed areas with appropriate native plant species; limited passive recreation use which excludes swimming, boating, hunting, and other active recreational activities within FSDRIP limits; and leashing of pets while within FSDRIP limits.

Management and maintenance guidelines are also spelled out for FSDRIP and include:
maintenance

of the required acreages of riparian woodland, freshwater marsh, and open water habitats; management of invasive exotic plant species and animal vectors; limited irrigation; regular trash removal; limited pruning of vegetation along walkways; monitoring of the channel for flood capacity and dredging for flood control, if required; repair of flood and vandalism impacts to native vegetation; and a FSDRIP pamphlet to inform the public regarding FSDRIP habitat goals and public use limitation in the area.

For adjacent developments which are not able to eliminate impacts to project habitats or for maintenance activities resulting in habitat disturbance, mitigation restoration guidelines are outlined in the Plan. Revegetation plant palettes for such impacts are given in Appendix D.

Suggested guidelines for interpretive and research opportunities include: signage; informational kiosks at major entry points; natural resource brochures; a self-guided nature walk; a future park ranger; and research, potentially based on previous project development monitoring data.