



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Planning Department

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CONTACT:

Mónica Muñoz (619) 533-6417
(619) 890-0883 cell

Keith Greer
(619) 236-7258

Project by the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Included in MITs *Technology Review* Magazine
City of San Diego's Vernal Pool Inventory Mentioned in Emerging Technology Series

SAN DIEGO – The technology used in *the City of San Diego 2002-2003 Vernal Pool Inventory* appears in the May issue of *Technology Review*, MITs Magazine of Innovation as part of their series on emerging technologies around the world. The technology used to track local vernal pools is one of 10 emerging technologies included in the series.

Vernal pools are basins that fill with rainwater in the winter and spring and contain endangered species. Here in San Diego, (among other endangered species) vernal pools contain San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum*) and San Diego fairy shrimp. The Planning Department's MSCP section secured a \$250 thousand grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to perform the work required for a comprehensive inventory of local vernal pools. The MSCP team utilized sub-meter, differential global positioning system (GPS) and aircraft mounted remote sensing technology to detect and delineate individual vernal pool basins. The updated information was compiled into a geographic information system (GIS) for spatial data analysis and mapping. These precise, up-to-date data are used to inform decision-makers on the management of these unique resources. More than 2500 vernal pools have been mapped by the MSCP team using these innovative geospatial technologies.

San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum*) was listed as an endangered species by the State of California in 1979, and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993. This perennial herb is found in Riverside and San Diego counties, and in Baja California, Mexico. In the City of San Diego, 85 percent of the 804 basins supporting San Diego button celery are conserved, and the species is found at 26 sites over approximately 442 square miles. The complete list of endangered species included in the vernal pool inventory can be found at www.sandiego.gov/mscp.

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