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CONTACT:
 Arian Collins at 619-533-4571 or acollins@sandiego.gov

City of San Diego Projects at Murray Reservoir Will Enhance Water Quality, Fish Habitat and Improve Safety

CITY WORKING WITH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO BRING PROJECTS TO FRUITION

SAN DIEGO – Two environmental improvement projects at the City of San Diego’s Murray Reservoir will enhance fisheries habitat at the reservoir, water quality in the San Diego River and reduce wildfire vulnerability for the area.

Over the next six months, the Urban Corps of San Diego County will remove non-native plants and trees along Airosa Avenue to Murray Dam as part of the Chaparral Canyon Habitat Restoration Project.

The removal of invasive plants and subsequent native habitat restoration will directly benefit the City and the San Diego River Conservancy by improving water quality in the San Diego River, reducing the canyon's vulnerability to wildfires, and help promote public health and safety. Funding for the \$382,513 project comes from the San Diego River Conservancy and the state’s Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act.

In addition, the City is working with California Department of Fish and Wildlife on a fisheries habitat enhancement project at Murray Reservoir through June 2020. This project is intended to increase fish abundance and angling opportunities for the public by adding fish habitat structures to the reservoir.

Several fish species prefer to nest near patches of physical structure, and the reproductive success can be suppressed in systems lacking structure, as is the case at Murray Reservoir. Juvenile and adult fish often avoid predation by occupying structurally complex areas. Brush structures, evergreen trees and other synthetic materials will be used to replicate this type of cover.

“As stewards of the area, it is important for us to improve and enhance the environment in and around Murray Reservoir,” said Shauna Lorange, Director of the City’s Public Utilities Department. “Working closely with state and local agencies allows us to better achieve this goal.”

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