



# City Councilmember Scott Sherman

*District 7*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February, 13<sup>rd</sup> 2018

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## **New Emergency Access Routes to Help Lifeguards Make Quicker Rescues on the San Diego River**

*Seven New Access Routes Cut Through Heavy Brush to the River*

**San Diego** – After a suggestion from San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Division personnel, Councilmember Scott Sherman and the San Diego River Conservancy spearheaded a plan to work with CAL FIRE and other agencies to cut seven access routes through heavy brush to the San Diego River.

Instead of wasting critical time fighting through heavy brush to reach the San Diego River, SDFD Lifeguards now have quicker access to perform life-saving rescue operations.

Over 20 swift-river rescues were done last year along the San Diego River. In addition, one of the emergency access routes is behind a motel where lifeguards rescued over 60 people during heavy rains in early 2017.

“A lifeguard’s job is hard enough. Finding common sense solutions to help make their jobs just a little bit easier will help improve public safety and save lives,” said Councilmember Scott Sherman. “I appreciate the hard work of the San Diego River Conservancy and CAL Fire for making this possible.”

“Our partnership with CAL FIRE is stronger than ever,” said SDFD Fire Chief Brian Fennessy. “We appreciate their willingness to assist whenever we ask... we couldn’t have accomplished this project without them.”

“Our swift water rescue team has performed hundreds of successful rescues along the SD River over the years, said SDFD Lifeguard Chief Rick Wurts. “These access points allow us to save precious moments in getting to those who need us.”

**For GoPro footage of Lifeguard swift water training, please click [here](#).**

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