

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET**  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE ISSUED: May 27, 2010  
ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee,  
Agenda of June 16, 2010  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Utilities Department  
SUBJECT: SANDAG Grant for an Integrated Weed Management Plan  
for San Pasqual Valley  
COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): All  
CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Wilson Kennedy - 851-8072, Nicole McGinnis - 533-4101

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Council authorization to accept, appropriate, and expend funds from San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Environmental Mitigation Program Grant for an Integrated Weed Management Plan for San Pasqual Valley and treatment of approximately thirty acres to control invasive plants.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the Mayor or his representative to accept \$184,623 through the SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program grant for the development of an Integrated Weed Management Plan for San Pasqual Valley and a three year program to treat thirty acres of invasive plants.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

San Pasqual Valley is somewhat larger than 14,000 acres, of which the Public Utilities Department owns and manages 9,327 acres. In 1964 the first San Pasqual Valley Community Plan designated the valley as an agricultural reserve. The current San Pasqual Valley Plan (1995), the San Pasqual Vision Plan (2004), and Council Policy 600-45 (2005) identify water resources, agriculture, sensitive habitats, and open space as key values to be protected. San Pasqual Valley is also one of the Cornerstone Land preserve areas for the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program. The Valley is underlain by the San Pasqual Groundwater Basin and is immediately upstream of Hodges Reservoir. The primary and overarching objective for the City's management of land in San Pasqual Valley is the protection of water resources. Beyond this, and in cooperation with other entities and partners, the City strives to protect all of the valley's natural resource and community values. A map of San Pasqual Valley is attached.

The occurrence and expanding presence of invasive non-native plants across the valley threatens water resources and other natural resources. Invasive plants are noxious weed species that rapidly and opportunistically expand their distribution. Invasive plants use excessive amounts of water, degrade water quality, displace valuable native habitats, and are unsightly. Examples of invasive plants in San Pasqual Valley are arrundo (giant reed) and tamarisk (salt cedar) - both of these plants use copious amounts of groundwater, displace native riparian plants, and reduce the habitat available for sensitive animal species. Tamarisk increases salt loading to surface runoff.

There have been efforts by multiple entities to suppress invasive plants in San Pasqual Valley; however, there has never been a comprehensive plan to guide the efforts and lead to eradication.

The goal of this project is to develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) for the valley and to implement the plan through an initial treatment of thirty acres. The first part of the project – the development of the IWMP - will be for the entire San Pasqual Valley, including all land owned by Public Utilities. This will involve mapping the distribution of invasive plants across the valley and surrounding landscapes, cataloging the eradication efforts to date, setting priorities for invasive species and target areas, and prescribing eradication methods. The second part of the project will eradicate target plant species along Santa Maria Creek with the intent of limiting the spread of these species into Santa Ysabel Creek and adjacent lands downstream.

SANDAG solicited proposals for its TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program grants. Public Utilities' application for the Integrated Weed Management Plan for San Pasqual Valley is one of ten projects that will be funded by the SANDAG grant program.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The total cost for the Integrated Weed Management Plan for San Pasqual Valley is \$254,623, of which \$184,623 will be reimbursed by the SANDAG grant. The remaining project costs are staff in-kind services (\$70,000) which is the City's match. Aside from staff in-kind services, the work will be done through an existing as-needed environmental consultant contract.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING:

This agreement is subject to the City's Equal Opportunity Contracting (San Diego Ordinance No. 18173, Section 22.2701 through 22.2702) and Non-Discrimination in Contracting Ordinance (San Diego Municipal Code Sections 22.3501 through 22.3571).

PREVIOUS COUNCIL or COMMITTEE ACTION:

Council Policy 600-45 *Protection of Water, Agricultural, Biological, and Cultural Resources within the San Pasqual Valley* was adopted in 2005 to ensure the long-term protection of the water resources within the valley, and to preserve the valley's agricultural areas, sensitive native habitats, and unique scenic qualities.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Public Utilities will continue in its efforts to educate lessees and visitors in the valley about the introduction of invasive plants. Public Utilities has developed a set of identification cards of the top forty invasive plants. Signs along trails and at trail staging areas will inform the public of the eradication efforts.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

The extensive list of stakeholders that will benefit from this project includes water ratepayers in the City; agricultural lessees, other water agencies [and their customers] that store water in Hodges Reservoir; and advocates for public access and trails; e.g. the San Dieguito River Park and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.

  
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Marsi A. Steirer  
Interim Assistant Director of Public Utilities

  
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Alex Ruiz  
Interim Director of Public Utilities

Attachment: Map of San Pasqual Valley