MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FILED
David Butler, Recorder/County Clerk
JUL 17 2009
BY L. Kesian
DEPUTY

To: X Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

X County Clerk
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260
San Diego, CA 92101

Name, brief description and file number: (SCH#: 2009-_____) This project proposes a watershed based invasive non-native plant control and riparian restoration program on the San Diego River Watershed. The riparian habitat is estimated to be 6,642 acres with an additional 354 acres occupied by invasive non-native plants. Total riparian habitat after control/restoration would be 6,996 acres. The project involves removal of *Arundo Donax* and re-vegetation by planting native species. *Arundo* and other invasive non-native plants pose a serious threat to the native flora and fauna, and are a significant flood and fire risk to the community. *Arundo* alters the flood regime by blocking flows with its thick growth, creates unstable banks due to its poorly developed root systems, and contributes to bridge and flood control structure failure. The typical restoration process for *Arundo* begins in the Fall, which avoids/minimizes impacts to the breeding/reproductive season for wildlife, fish and native plants.

Location: The San Diego River Watershed riparian habitat for this project is in the lower watershed, and includes the cities of San Diego, El Cajon, and Santee in San Diego County.

Entity undertaking project: San Diego River Conservancy, 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, San Diego, California, 92101.

The San Diego River Conservancy Board of Directors, having reviewed the initial study of this proposed project and having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the Board of Directors, including the recommendation of the San Diego River Conservancy personnel and its consultants, does hereby find and declare that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the Board of Directors' findings areas as follows: All potential impacts analyzed in the initial study were determined to be below a level of significance by measures incorporated into the project design.The Conservancy here by finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment. A copy of the initial study may be obtained at the following address, San Diego River Conservancy, 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, San Diego, California, 92101 or at www.sdrc.ca.gov . The location and custodian of the documents and any other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Conservancy based its decision to adopt this Mitigated Negative Declaration are as follows: San Diego River Conservancy, 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, San Diego, California, 92101. (619) 645-3183.

Staff: Michael J. Nelson, Executive Officer
(619)645-3183

Date Received for filing:

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
San Diego County on JUL 17 2009
Posted JUL 17 2009 Removed _____
Returned to agency on _____
Deputy L. Kesian

Determination at San Diego River Conservancy Board of Director's meeting on September 3, 2009.