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Mission Statement

The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation and protection of the natural open space within the Escondido Creek watershed. We support educational programs and compatible outdoor recreation within the watershed for the benefit of all residents of the area.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy Officers

June Rady.....	President	Jeff Swenerton.....	Director
Steve Barker.....	Vice President	Leonard Wittwer.....	Director
Brent Alspach.....	Secretary	TECC Office.....	760-471-9354
Tim Costanzo.....	Treasurer	Email.....	information@escondidocreek.org
Kevin Barnard.....	Director	Website.....	www.escondidocreek.org
Everett DeLano III.....	Director	Geoffrey D. Smith, MA.....	Executive Director
Jerry Harmon.....	Director	Mary Beth Francis.....	Watershed Voice Editor
Jack Olmstead.....	Director	Vickie Kleen.....	Bookkeeper

TECC Opens First Office in Watershed

In the month of July, TECC staff proudly occupied our new 'TECC World Headquarters' office!

In the heart of Elfin Forest, on donated space at Anderson's Seed Co Nursery, this little office packs a big punch.

Located near TECC's current and prospective properties, the facility provides a central location for work, volunteering and managing supplies. A separate facility nearby provides secure storage for tools and equipment.

TECC Executive Director Geoffrey Smith looks forward to having lots of visitors! Please call before you come: 760.471.9354.

The location is north of Elfin Forest Road, just west of the Elfin Forest/ Harmony Grove Fire Station, at 20253 Elfin Forest Rd. Come on up and see us!



Above, Executive Director Geoffrey Smith at work in the new TECC office; to the right, a view of the new office, complete with landscaping and resident doggie, Lilly.



Please join in our conservation efforts by becoming a member.



Watershed Voice

The **ESCONDIDO CREEK**
Conservancy

A Publication of The Escondido Creek Conservancy

FALL Edition 2006

Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility: Is It Up to the Task?

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in October will consider a settlement offer by the city of Escondido in response to the Regional Board's December 2005 Administrative Civil Liability Assessment of \$1,162,500 in penalties.

This figure is based on numerous violations of federal law prohibiting discharge of treated effluent into the Creek and for exceeding maximum permissible levels of pollutants discharged into the Pacific Ocean.

The complaint against the City noted that the city had more than 450 violations of effluent limitations, more than 350,000



gallons of discharges to the creek and at least 15 instances in which it failed to sub-

mit reports. A State Water Board engineer who investigated the complaint noted, "In summary, the effluent limitation violations at the HARRF were probably caused by a combination of events, most of which could have been controlled by the treatment plant staff if all of the equipment had been functioning properly."

The city's proposed settlement does not address any corrections to the system. There are reasons why the HARRF has failed so dramatically to properly treat sewage. Further, according to the complaint, the maximum total penalty amount

Continued on Page 3

'Concerts on the Creek' Benefit Event a Grand Success!

The Escondido Creek Conservancy held its fifth annual 'Concerts on the Creek' program on Sept. 16 to benefit watershed protection in Escondido Creek.

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Peggy Watson performed her original compositions in a unique outdoor setting at the Costanzo family residence in Elfin Forest.

Musician David Beldock appeared in an accompanying role.

Featured in the photograph to the right, concert patrons enjoy conversation and a meal prior to the performance.

Pictured from the right: Dave Fege; Camille Armstrong, wife of Executive Director Geoffrey Smith; Emily Young, with The San Diego

Foundation; and Anne Fege.

Tables were decorated with flowers provided by the host committee members.

In the left photograph, Peggy Watson and David Beldock perform original acoustic folk songs to a crowd of 80 enthusiastic guests.



TECC HONOR ROLL

The Escondido Creek Conservancy gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their generosity during the past 12 months.

Friends of the Creek

- Brent Alspach
- Anonymous
- Camille Armstrong & Geoffrey Smith
- Richard & Dolores Barber
- Steve & Nona Barker
- Kevin Barnard
- Kenneth and Yvette Beauvais
- Jayne Ellen Bernasconi
- Laurilyn Burson
- Jean Costanzo
- Dee & Eleanor Cross
- Garrett Emslie
- Dare and Everett DeLano
- James Determan
- Claudia & Richard Foster
- Elinor Foulke
- Thomas & Donna Golich
- Ed & Janice Hall
- Gail Hanna
- David Harlow
- Jerry Harman
- Bob Hoffman
- John & Joanne Hubbard
- Laura Hunter & Ron Forster
- Bill & Janean Huston
- Bob & Sandy Irwin
- Chris and Linda Khoury
- Lucille Khoury
- Alta & Albert Kisselburgh
- Orlando & Vickie Kleen
- Carolyn & Tony Kurtz
- Phyllis Laderman
- Suzann & William Leininger
- Michele Ann Mareck
- Andy and Kathy Mauro
- Paul McClellan
- Richard & Elizabeth Mercurio
- Laura Mitchell, PhD
- Bob & Cindy Moore
- William F Morgan, II
- Gloria Murphy
- Betty Newton
- Frank Oddo
- Olivenhain Municipal Water District
- Osborn & Roberts Family
- Jack Olmstead
- Joni Osteen
- Janet Owen
- Doug Paulson
- Joan Perron
- Jack Pomeroy
- June Rady
- Margaret & William Robison
- Mariposa Tree Service, Inc
- J. Michael & Nancy Sampson
- San Dieguito Equine Group
- Dan Silver
- James and Charlotte Smith
- Jeff & Carolyn Swenerton
- Dolores Welty

Connie Witt
Leo & Wilma Wittwer
The Women's Club of Escondido

Sponsor (\$500+)
The Costanzo Family

Patron (\$1,000+)
Anonymous
The Blane & Wittwer Family

Benefactor (\$2,500+)
Habitat West, Inc.

Grants

The Elfin Forest Community Foundation
The Jack and Jill Campbell Fund at The San Diego Foundation
The Kohlberg Foundation
The Orca Fund at The San Diego Foundation
The San Diego Foundation
The Charles Stout Family Foundation
Supervisor Pam Slater, County of San Diego
Anonymous

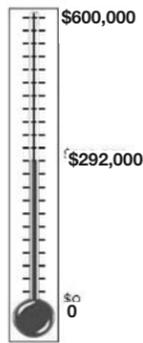
In-Kind Gifts of Property or Services

Silent Auction Items

Adventure 16
Chaparral Honey, Inc.
Eagle Creek Travel Gear
Elfin Valley Nursery
Jeff & Carolyn Swenerton
Judy Nakatomi
Patagonia, Cardiff
Prana
'R' Hay and Grain REI
Santa Ysabel General Store & Antiques
Say Provence
The Golden Door
Timothy Costanzo
Yoga and Meditation Center

Other

Brent Ahlspach - office chair
Eric Anderson - space for office
Martha Blane - office decorations



Anderson's Seed Co. - electrical hookup for office, shelving
Eagle Creek Travel Gear - secure space for archival storage
Habitat West -multi-function printer
Hansen Associates - TECC logo, graphics support
Starbucks - coffee for tabling events
Coronado Island Realty - Savin office photo copier
Escondido Disposal, roll-off body for cleanup day
Escondido Sand and Gravel, cement recycling

Interprtive Center Capital Campaign

The Campaign to build an Interpretive Center at Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve has nearly reached the halfway point toward its goal of \$600,000 by Dec. 15, 2006. Reaching this goal will allow the construction of a wonderful, functional and aesthetic facility to serve the educational, youth and community safety needs of the community. Please contribute what you can to help build this legacy for Elfin

Forest. Every gift counts.
Office staff would be happy to discuss naming and planned gift opportunities with you in confidence.
\$50,000 - Anonymous
50,000 - Anonymous
50,000 - The Orca Fund at The San Diego Foundation
2,500 - The Deborah Szekely Family Foundation
1,500 - Timothy & Claudia Costanzo
1,000 - Martha Blane & Leonard Wittwer
1,000 - Cheri Smith
125 - Camille Armstrong & Geoffrey Smith
100 - Jacqueline Arsivaud / Benjamin & Alan Benjamin
100 - Gordon Caras, PhD
100 - Anthony De Bellis, Jr & Melanie Fallon
50 - Gail Hanna
50 - The Doughty & Stafford Family
25 - Richard & Elizabeth Mercurio
25 - Brad Roth
25 - Frederick & Linda Woods

What is the HARRF?

The 'HARRF' – a fancy name for the city of Escondido's sewage treatment facility – is located at the downhill end of the valley, on Hale Avenue (remember: Sewage flows downhill.). The HARRF is an activated sludge, secondary treatment facility. This consists of physical, biological, and chemical treatment methods, that include screening, sedimentation, chemical precipitation and biological processes. It is designed to treat a flow of 18 million gallons per day (MGD). The average daily flow is 15.6 MGD in dry weather. After complex treatment, the wastewater, called effluent, has

been treated to a high quality. The effluent is discharged from the HARRF to the Pacific Ocean via a 14-mile-long land outfall pipeline that connects to an ocean outfall pipeline near San Elijo Lagoon. The effluent exits the outfall pipeline approximately 1.5 miles offshore through diffuser ports 110-feet deep in the Pacific Ocean. The city sends the organic material, called biosolids, to Yuma, Arizona, for beneficial reuse as a soil amendment. Additional tertiary treatment capacity of about 18 MGD provides water for industrial reuse and wet weather live stream discharge under permit.

HARRF Continued from Page 1

allowed for these violations would be \$17,087,490,000. Yes, over \$17 billion! The city is proposing to settle the matter for \$690,000. TECC believes these problems need to be rectified, yet the proposed settlement does

not begin to touch the issue. In testimony before the Regional Board, TECC will continue to push for proactive solutions to these significant HARRF shortcomings that jeopardize the health of Escondido Creek.

Join Us as We Learn About the Escondido Creek Watershed

“Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map.”

By Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac*

Outing Sign-Up Procedure:

Contact the outing leader at 760-471-9354 or information @escondidocreek.org to learn more about each week's trip and to sign up. Registration is required in case there is a change of plans and to manage trip size. All outings are led by our Executive Director, Geoffrey Smith, who is well-versed in the local land-use and resource management issues in the watershed. Meet 15 minutes prior to start time. Please, no dogs. Children are welcome on some trips when accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

Wednesdays in the Watershed Series

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m. – Noon:

Wednesday, Nov. 1: Bottle Peak

At 2195 feet, this landmark is the most prominent peak north and east of Escondido. Situated near Lake Wohlford Dam, this is a short but challenging hike. Meet at the Lake Wohlford Café, on Lake Wohlford Road, across from the park. Outing on private land with permission.

Wednesday, Nov. 15: NO OUTING

TECC Corps

Corps - A body of persons acting together or associated under common direction. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition.*

Currently opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Office** - lots of things to improve efficient, or working with the public
- Outdoors** - outings, monitoring, surveying. Bring sunscreen!
- Committee Support** - acquisitions, Land Use, Water Quality, Fund-raising
- Community Outreach** - tabling at events and local merchants; Presentations.
- Special Projects** - let's talk!
- Grants** - writing for dollars is a fun and often rewarding activity.

Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility

PHOTO CAPTION WITH PAGE 1 ARTICLE: The 18 million gallon per day (MGD) outfall pipe for the HARRF here crosses Escondido Creek on property owned by TECC in the Elfin Forest Preserve. The concrete 'A-jacks' shown in the center of the photo lock together and are designed to protect the submerged pipe from vehicles and debris coming down the creek.

Wednesday, Dec. 6: NO OUTING

Wednesday, Dec. 20: Derbas Property

This is a unique opportunity to explore the recently-acquired 345-acre Derbas property at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. TECC purchased this property in 2002, then 'flipped' it to the County of San Diego that manages it as open space in perpetuity. TECC is working with the county to remove invasive eucalyptus trees and establish a public trail system. Meet at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve on Harmony Grove Road. Outing to closed area by permission.

Weekend Events:

Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m. – Noon: Hike in Elfin Forest Recreation Reserve, TECC Property

TECC owns property immediately north and west of the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. On this outing, we'll visit this special place, off-limits to the general public and see first-hand the threat presented by the neighboring 17-unit and 100-acre 'Cielo Azul' proposed development at the top of the 'Way Up Trail.' Maps will be provided. Meet at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve staging area on Harmony Grove Road.

Special Events:

Saturday, Oct. 21: Stanley Peak Dedication

The city of Escondido has completed the purchase of the 105-acre Stanley Peak property for addition to Daley Ranch. The grand opening for Stanley Peak is Saturday, Oct. 21. Be there and receive a commemorative medallion. A shuttle from Daley Ranch parking lot on La Honda Drive will be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A brief ceremony at the ranch house will be held at 9 a.m. Mayor Pfeiler will say a few words, followed by volunteer Jack Pomeroy. City staff and Park Docents will lead nature hikes to the peak starting at 9:30 a.m.

Visit the TECC web site for additional outings not listed on this page! www.escondidocreek.org.

BE PREPARED!

Here's a short checklist of gear to bring and wear on TECC outings:

Clothing:

Light weight shirt (nylon is best), light weight pants (nylon is best), hat, sturdy boots, windbreaker, jacket

Food:

2 quarts water, nuts, fruit, crackers, cheese

Other:

Cash, identification, day pack, extra clothes, extra food, first aid kit, whistle, sun screen, sun glasses, hiking staff