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| **DIRECTORS****Betsy Morris - President****Jay Corrales****Linnie Gavino****Drew Hubbell****Roger Lewis****John Lomac****Mildred “Chica” Love****Nick Marinovich****Anthony Mendiola****Brian Mooney****Deanna Spehn****Mike Stepner****Susan Riggs Tinsky** **Jay Turner****Diego Velasco** | January 7, 2013Myra Herrmann, Environmental PlannerCity of San Diego Development Services Center 1222 First Avenue, MS 501 San Diego, CA 92101RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report, San Diego River Park Master Plan Project No. 121886 / SCH no. 2009041036Dear Ms. Herrman,C3, Citizens Coordinate for Century Three, has a continuing interest and involvement in the goals of the San Diego River Foundation to create a connective park and trail for the San Diego River starting from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. We also have our members serve on the San Diego River Coalition. Please note that C3 enables specific standing committees to respond on behalf of the organization, particularly on a time sensitive basis such as this draft EIR.C3 is in support of the San Diego River Program Master Plan. Upon reviewing the draft EIR we find that one of the alternative measures, listed under 11.3 Reduced Project Alternatives, has exceptional merit for the biological and environmental health of the River, as well as educational experience for citizens. The Master Plan currently contains language limiting the River Pathway to one side of the River if topography prohibits access. Adding alternative language would limit the River Pathway to one side of the River if there is significant impact to sensitive biological resources. This option will be extremely important at locations of the River where Multiple Habitat Protection Areas and Multiple Species Conservation Programs are in place, as well as those wetland areas which will have a buffer area determination.To bypass these few environmental and topographical stretches, the River Pathway will need to be connected via bridges. If automobile bridges are already available near these areas, they can be widened to include a separated pedestrian, ADA, bicycle pathway. Pedestrian, ADA, bicycle bridges can be built over the River before and after these areas. These would be an opportunity for artistic expression, and River outlooks. The ability to go along the Pathway, stop and look at the particular habitats and micro ecosystems, demonstrating the uninterrupted transition from the River’s banks, will be educational while offering the natural respite this River Park is for.C3 commends the City of San Diego in the development of the San Diego River Master Plan as a policy program for the entire length of the River within the City limits, including the needed amendments to community plans. Continued dialogue and specific responses would be appreciated by C3’s Park and Open Space committee.Sincerely, Mildred N.C. Love, C3 2013 Board member Parks and Open Space Committee |