



San Dieguito River Park  
Joint Powers Authority  
18372 Sycamore Creek Road  
Escondido, CA 92025  
(858) 674-2270 Fax (858) 674-2280  
www.sdrp.org

May 28, 2024

**JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair Joe LaCava  
San Diego City Council

Vice-Chair Chris Khoury  
Citizens Advisory Committee

Brian Pepin  
Poway City Council

Dwight Worden  
Del Mar City Council

Consuelo Martinez  
Escondido City Council

Marni von Wilpert  
San Diego City Council

Joel Anderson  
Supervisor, County of San Diego

Terra Lawson-Remer  
Supervisor, County of San Diego

Jill MacDonald  
Solana Beach City Council

Dustin Fuller, Ex Officio  
22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural  
Association

Shawna Anderson  
Executive Director

Senate Budget Committee  
[SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov](mailto:SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov)

Assembly Budget Committee  
[AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov](mailto:AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov)

**RE: OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANTS PROGRAM**

Dear Senate Budget Committee and Assembly Budget Committee,

On behalf of San Dieguito River Park JPA, we **write to respectfully urge your support in ensuring the \$50 million for Round 2 of the Outdoor Equity Grants Program (OEP) at the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)—including the \$25 million appropriated in the FY 2022-23 State Budget and the \$25 million appropriated in the FY 2023-24 State Budget—is administered as planned.** We submitted a grant proposal in December 2024 for a project that we were expecting awards to be announced for this summer. The project, Students Empowered by Nature, takes underserved youth on camping experiences throughout the San Dieguito River watershed teaching them the importance of nature, watershed function, team building and self-exploration. Our proposal would also fund internship opportunities for high school and college students to gain life changing experiences in nature.

The 2022 Outdoor Equity Grant Round 1 funding for the Escondido Explorers Program has been so successful, this year's summer camp filled up in one day. This program has taken over 900 youth throughout the San Dieguito watershed in the last year and half. Delaying or reverting OEP Round 2 funds now would pull the rug out from under groups like ours that have already invested time and resources developing a project and applying for funding. It would also take meaningful outdoor access opportunities away from those that need them the most.

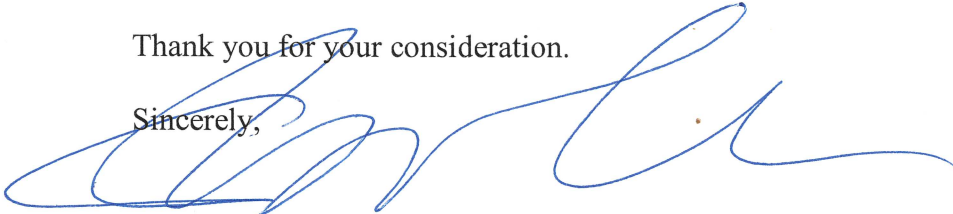
The always oversubscribed State Park's Outdoor Equity Grants Program helps provide Californians—including those who face barriers to accessing the state's natural resources—with invaluable opportunities to experience and enjoy the state's parks, beaches, and other outdoor spaces. This supports the state's goal of ensuring all Californians have access to nature and its benefits, while also helping to cultivate environmental stewardship that's needed to drive other long-term state climate and biodiversity protection objectives.

The San Dieguito River Park JPA **urges you to help maintain the \$50 million available for Round 2 of the State Park's Outdoor Equity Grants Program,**

**and ensure it is awarded as scheduled this summer, not delayed by or lost to the General Fund freezes that the Department of Finance has announced.** We hope we can rely on you to protect our community's right to access nature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shawna Anderson', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Shawna Anderson  
Executive Director