

Essential Investments in San Diego County

With California voters' strong support for ballot measures to fund conservation, our state has invested wisely in protecting our land, water and parks. These essential investments have strengthened California's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

In San Diego, these investments are helping develop river parkways and enhancing urban and state parks that draw thousands of people outdoors everyday to enjoy healthier lifestyles. They're improving local water quality, assisting in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and they're preserving the beautiful rivers that flow through San Diego County.

Although we have made great improvements, there is still much to be done. The future of all of California — from its wide diversity of plants and animals to the wide diversity of people who live here — depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish. Among the noteworthy investments in San Diego County are:

BALBOA PARK

Balboa Park is the nation's largest urban cultural park, covering 1,200 acres near downtown San Diego. It draws more than 500,000 residents and visitors from around the world to its sprawling gardens, museums and renowned performing arts venues each year. More than \$8 million from Proposition 40 alone has helped advance the projects that make Balboa Park such an integral part of the San Diego community.



Balboa Park (San Diego)

Photo: California Travel & Tourism Commission & Robert Holmes

OTAY RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

The Otay River Valley is a critical habitat link and open space corridor between San Diego Bay and the backcountry for wildlife and for the nearby underserved communities that need access to recreational and educational opportunities. The park provides much-needed green space for South Bay residents. The valley also hosts populations of the California gnatcatcher, coastal cactus wren and several endemic plant species, such as snake cholla. More than \$25 million from Propositions 12 and 40 helped purchase more than 5,000 acres, build trails and create other recreational opportunities at the park.



Otay River Valley Regional Park (San Diego County)

Photo: Duane Bazzel



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ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

At 600,000 acres, this is the largest state park in California. Located on the eastern side of San Diego County and extending into Imperial and Riverside counties, this park is home to an abundance of recreational opportunities and unique habitats for plants and wildlife. It has 500 miles of dirt roads, 12 wilderness areas and miles of hiking trails. With investments from Proposition 12 and many other sources, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience the unique California Desert.

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK

San Dieguito River Park is a natural open space park along the 55-mile corridor of the San Dieguito River Valley, stretching from the headwaters at Volcan Mountain in eastern San Diego County to the coast just south of Del Mar. It features more than 40 miles of trails for hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Funding from Propositions 12, 13 and 50 helped local organizations purchase and protect the land surrounding the river, making it possible for wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy the recreational opportunities.

BUENA VISTA CREEK & LAGOON

The Buena Vista Lagoon, composed of 200 acres of freshwater marshlands in Oceanside, is home to more than 200 species of wildlife, 14 vegetation communities and 50 species of plants. It is a favorite destination for bird watchers, artists, naturalists, fisherman and other visitors. Great flocks of native and migratory birds, regional ducks and geese, turtles, frogs, even an occasional flamingo, all share the Buena Vista Lagoon. Although surrounded by development, local communities and organizations have fought to protect the important habitats that exist within and around Buena Vista Creek. Proposition 50 helped protect more than 130 acres around the creek and several state and federally endangered species by providing \$2 million for purchasing the land.

SAN DIEGO RIVER

The 52-mile river that flows from eastern San Diego County to the Pacific Ocean at Oceanside provides ample opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and the region's natural beauty. The river is home to wildlife and plant species, including threatened and endangered ones, such as the arroyo toad, least bell's vireo and the southwestern pond turtle. Proposition 40 has provided \$2.2 million to increase public access to the river and continue preserving its diverse wildlife habitats. The five reservoirs of the San Diego River also provide drinking water for more than 750,000 of the region's residents.



Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (Imperial, San Diego & Riverside counties)

Photo: California Travel & Tourism Commission

CONSERVING CALIFORNIA

A public education program about our essential investments in land, water and parks presented by Audubon California, California Council of Land Trusts, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and WiLDCOAST.

For more information, please visit our website:
www.conservingcalifornia.org

