

January 31, 2003

Ms. Gina Castro, Biologist  
City of San Diego  
Environmental Services Department  
9601 Ridgehaven Court, Suite 210  
San Diego, CA 92123-1636

Subject: Letter of Support  
Tijuana River Restoration Project  
Brown Fill Site  
San Diego, California

Dear Ms. Castro:

Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association is pleased to provide this Letter of Support to the City of San Diego (City )for its project to restore a portion of the Tijuana Valley on property known as the Brown Fill Site (APN Nos. 663-010-04 and -06), located approximately ½ mile south of Sunset Street, west of Hollister Street in the southern portion of the City. The City will be the sponsor of a grant for which it has applied to the California Department of Water Resources (Flood Protection Corridor Protection Program - FPCP.) for the Brown Fill project.

Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA) has long been concerned with the fill illegally dumped twenty years ago on the property named above. As a downstream neighbor at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, we are aware that the Brown fill is a flood hazard and has diverted the flow of floodwater to create a northern channel. We support the plans of the City of San Diego to remove the illegal fill and to restore the river back to a more natural condition with flood protection measures in place. As SWIA has recently embarked on a long term exotics plant removal program farther west in the Tijuana River Valley, we are very pleased that the City of San Diego has included the removal of invasive plants species and the replanting of native species in the area as part of its proposed project.

Support letter: Flood Protection Corridor Protection Program - Brown Fill Site

SWIA is also willing to support the City of San Diego by sending a representative to serve on an advisory board or other consultative body. We look forward to working cooperatively with the City in its efforts to control erosion and manage flooding in the Tijuana Valley as well as controlling non-native pest plants, restoring habitats and enhancing the beneficial uses of the area to the community.

If the City requires any additional information or support, please give us a call.

Sincerely,

Fred Cagle  
President  
Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association