



Celebrating 25 Years of Progress & Preservation 2nd Annual River Valley Fest

The 2nd Annual River Valley Fest, on September 25th, 2011, celebrated 25 years of progress in implementing and preserving the expansive San Dieguito River Park, and protecting San Diego's natural legacy at the award-winning Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa. Conservancy supporters, donors, board members, elected officials and guests came together for a fun-filled afternoon of great food and wine, lively music, auction items and tennis. ***The event was a resounding success*** and was made possible in part by generous donations from Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa, San Diego Paella, Claire's on Cedros, Minuteman Press, Van Law Foods, Ranch & Coast Magazine, and BioMed Realty Trust, Inc.

For 25 years the citizen-based, nonprofit Conservancy has worked with state and local government, nonprofit and community partners to implement and sustain the vision of the 94,000-acre San Dieguito River Park and its 55-mile Coast-to-Crest Trail through land acquisition and stewardship, citizen involvement, education and public outreach. Started in 1986 around kitchen tables, today, the Conservancy and its 1,500 members are proud to announce that a stunning **65% of the San Dieguito River Park is in protected public ownership, more than 70 miles of trails are open for the enjoyment of hikers, bikers, equestrians and nature enthusiasts**, and invasives plant species are being treated on 1,000 acres to preserve habitat and precious water resources.

Many thought the idea of having a watershed-wide River Park was an impossible pipe dream, and would never be the reality it is today. San Diego Union-Tribune columnist Logan Jenkins echoes the sentiments of thousands of River Park supporters when he says, "The San Dieguito River Park, an ambitious conservation project stretching from Del Mar to Volcan Mountain, is considered one of San Diego region's most noble achievements. Our grandchildren will judge us not by what we sell, but by what we save." And long-time River Park board member, County Board Supervisor Pam Slater-Price explains,

"In the world of policy-making, nothing compares to acquiring, preserving and restoring open space. That's why the rewards of serving on the San Dieguito River Park's board have been so great. Thanks to our efforts -- and those of many, many supporters -- the river valley will remain as a safe haven for plants, animals and people in perpetuity."