



SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK

THE HISTORY OF OUR CREATION



The story of the San Dieguito River Park, and how it came to be, and how it progressed, is the story of citizens like you who were concerned about preserving an important part of their community. These were real people, who didn't just stand by as valuable wetlands and natural open space were lost to development – they did something about it – and as a result, a regional park extending from Volcan Mountain in the east to the beach at Del Mar, an expanse of 55 miles, came into being, providing lasting benefits for animals and humans.



SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK

FOUNDERS



LYNN BENN

Lynn was the first to identify the need to protect the San Dieguito River Valley through acquisition. She planted the seed that led to others acquiring land in the San Dieguito River Valley to preserve it as open space forever, asking her question, "Will you help me buy the River Valley?"

KAREN BERGER

Karen is a founder of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, which was organized as a 501(c)3 in order to acquire natural open space in the San Dieguito River Valley. She served as an effective citizen advocate and an important liaison with SANDAG and San Diego elected officials. Karen played a vital role in the effort to acquire land in the San Dieguito Lagoon area, and to preserve the San Pasqual Valley for agricultural use.



PETER BERGSTROM

Peter is a founder of the Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation, located at the eastern end of the San Dieguito River Park. Peter tirelessly rallied public support for preserving Volcan Mountain. He worked closely with County leaders to identify potential acquisition funding sources while successfully negotiating with private landowners.





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DIANE COOMBS

Diane first called for a regional, coordinated effort to preserve the San Dieguito River Valley as a citizen, and as a member of Citizens Coordinate for Century 3. Later she served as Executive Director of the JPA for eight years. Her passion for open space preservation drove her on as she skillfully negotiated key property acquisitions in the Lagoon area, as well as Volcan Mountain.

SUSAN GOLDING

As a proponent of urban planning, and in her capacity as County Supervisor, Susan implemented development design guidelines and Specific Plans to help preserve the open space in the San Dieguito River Valley that could not be acquired. She advocated for the County to join the new JPA, thus creating a successful and effective multi-jurisdictional cooperative venture.



ALICE GOODKIND

Alice was a founder of the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley. She was a clear-eyed advocate for the highest standards for the Park and for the restored lagoon, and never relaxed those standards. She spoke out strongly through the years to make sure that those in power remembered what the Park could and should be.



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BOB SENSIBAUGH

Bob was a founder of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. He was a gifted strategist and organizer who brought those skills to bear as he researched and documented how to go about acquiring privately-owned land in the river valley. He endlessly visited with elected officials to gain their support for the fledgling River Park.

NANCY WEARE

Nancy is a scientist who recognized in the 1970's that the San Dieguito Lagoon ecosystem was in poor health. She used her expertise to create a visual plan and graphic for a restored lagoon, and promoted the plan to community groups throughout the area. She is a founder of the San Dieguito Lagoon Committee, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, and Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley.



ABBE WOLFSHEIMER-STUTZ

Abbe was a visionary proponent of the San Dieguito River Park. She strongly believed that the River Park should be created and operated by an independent agency, which led to the establishment of the River Park as a Joint Powers Authority. She used her position as San Diego City Councilperson to help direct funds to the new Park. Abbe was a powerful leader who provided the political will to make the River Park happen.



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FOUNDERS

OTHER SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK KEY PLAYERS

CRAIG ADAMS
VICKI BERGSTROM
DICK BOBERTZ
WAYNE BRECHTEL
CAROL CARR
SUSAN CARTER
MELANIE DENNINGER
EMILY DURBIN
JAN FUCHS
PEGGY GENTRY
MIKE GOTCH
JERRY HARMON
CHRIS KHOURY
MAX KILTZ
DAVE KREITZER
HARRY MATHIS
JAN MCMILLAN
PHIL PRYDE
DAVE ROBERTS
MARGARET SCHLESINGER
STUART SHAFFER
PAM SLATER-PRICE
JACQUELINE WINTERER
DWIGHT WORDEN