



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
South Coast Region  
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**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



January 27, 2022

SANDAG  
TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management Grant Program  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Subject: Support for Proposed Annie's Canyon Trail Enhancements and Southern Mule Deer Connectivity Enhancement**

Dear Proposal Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express our full support of the project proposed by Nature Collective to restore 5.5 acres along the route of Annie's Canyon Trail and to promote southern mule deer connectivity at two bridge undercrossings along Escondido Creek.

Annie's Canyon Trail in San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve has annual trail use of approximately 100,000 hikers. Not surprisingly, this high use has taken a toll on native vegetation around the trail as hikers go off trail, create illicit trails, trample native vegetation, and help spread invasive species. One part of the project would restore the areas along the trails and promote hikers to stay on the trail. The second part of the project would be to study and improve access for southern mule deer around the two bridges that cross the lower Escondido Creek. This would help promote connectivity for the mule deer as they move through this habitat corridor.

Restoration activities for this project include invasive species control, erosion control, and planting and seeding for the restoration work at Annie's Canyon Trail. Restoration work for the southern mule deer will include monitoring, wildlife cameras, and invasive species treatments to reduce chokepoints and promote connectivity.

The proposed project would benefit both responsible human trail access and wildlife populations. The Department fully supports both of the projects objectives.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Ed Pert*

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Edmund Pert  
Regional Manager  
South Coast Region

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