

**CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE NINTH CYCLE OF THE  
TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM  
LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM  
THREAT REDUCTION STEWARDSHIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Applicant Name: San Diego River Park Foundation

Address: 4891 Pacific Hwy, Suite 114, San Diego, CA 92110

Phone and Email Address: (619) 297-7380, info@sandiegoriver.org

Name of Property: Boulder Creek Preserve

General Location: Descanso, CA

Jurisdiction: Private property in San Diego County

Total Acres: 13

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: less than 0.01 acre

Owner(s) of Property: San Diego River Park Foundation

Land manager(s) of property *(include name[s])*: San Diego River Park Foundation, contacts are:  
Rob Hutsel, President and CEO  
Shannon Quigley-Raymond, River Ecosystem Manager

**Brief Project Summary that includes your primary goal and objectives (200-word maximum)**

The goal of the project is to increase the suitability of roosting habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat (MSP Category SO [Significant occurrence(s) at risk of loss from MSPA]) by installing a gate in the entrance of a mine and controlling the existing erosion threat there.

We have identified these additional objectives:

- Engage expert in initial survey to record any signs of bat activity within the mine and confirm the mine's suitability for Townsend's big-eared bat.
- Monitor bat activity at the mine entrance by installing passive bat monitoring equipment
- Assess the surrounding habitat for species management
- Public and visitor education about this project through development of educational signage and materials, including interpretation of monitoring data.

This project is consistent with the management efforts for Townsend's big-eared bat prescribed in SDMMPS MSP (Volume 2D, Section 7.4) by directly addressing substantial threats. By eliminating human access to the mine and preventing sediment from closing the mine entrance, the mine would be substantially more suitable for Townsend's big-eared bats to use as a diurnal, nocturnal, or maternity roost site. Additionally, by preventing human access to the mine, the gate would minimize potential safety hazards for anyone accessing this area.

**Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)**

- Determine habitat suitability of the mine for Townsend's big-eared bat roosting habitat
- Install a specialized gate at the mine entrance to prevent human access while allowing access of Townsend's big-eared bat and/or other bat species
- Minimize the threat of erosion at the mine entrance to maintain its suitability for bat use
- Assess the habitat surrounding the mine for potential threats to Townsend's big-eared bat or other sensitive

- species and outline potential conservation activities for future preserve management.
- Install passive bat monitoring equipment at the mine for recording data to be used for future management and educational purposes
- Install signage at the preserve and develop other educational materials to be used elsewhere to educate people accessing the area of the mine and the general public about Townsend's big-eared bat, its natural history, and conservation efforts.

**Brief Description of dedicated staff and/or consultants that would work on Project (200-word maximum)**

San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) staff will administer the overall implementation of the project in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in SANDAG's standard contract. SDRPF staff will include: River Ecosystem Manager (oversee site visits and coordination with consultants and contractors), Associate Director and Education Coordinator (oversee development of educational materials), and Associate Director and President & CEO (oversee budget approvals, contracts, reporting and invoicing).

A qualified biologist with experience surveying for Townsend's big-eared bats will be retained to perform a pre-installation survey of the mine. A qualified mine gate installation company will be retained to perform the gate design and installation activities described in Exhibit A. This company shall have prior experience installing mine gates to accommodate bats. A company with experience in the San Diego County area and recommended by local bat experts would be preferred. A qualified biological consultant company will be retained to perform the erosion control activities, the bat monitoring equipment installation, and the preserve assessment survey described in Exhibit A. This company shall demonstrate that they possess the necessary habitat restoration and biological technical services experience. A company with experience in developing educational graphics will be retained to develop interpretive materials.

**Funding Needs Summary**

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Requested Funding Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$12,428.00	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$7,077.52	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant Expenses	\$19,470.00	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$8,350.94	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs		All indirect charges on the project, if any.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$47,326.46</b>	

\*if applicable

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

### A. Project Purpose

Please describe how the proposed project meets the following criteria:

1. The proposed project addresses a high-priority Management Strategic Plan (MSP) species and their habitats. Refer to the MSP for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County.

Townsend's big-eared bat is an MSP Category SO [Significant occurrence(s) at risk of loss from MSPA] species. The MSP identifies an overarching goal of protecting diurnal, nocturnal, and maternity roosts from destruction and human disturbance and enhancing foraging habitat. The MSP also identifies the need for monitoring this species to collect data regarding seasonal changes in behavior and population, potential threats, and develop management recommendations. The proposed project would address direct threats to Townsend's big-eared bat habitat and establish preliminary monitoring of individuals and the surrounding habitat. These actions help fulfill MSP objectives MGT-IMP PLETOW-2 and MGT-IMP PLETOW-3. The mine is located on the Boulder Creek Preserve along Boulder Creek Road, south of Julian and north of Descanso, in eastern San Diego County (Figure 1). A database search shows that Townsend's big-eared bat was observed in a mine in this area in June of 1976. A total of 11 females and 9 males were collected. These numbers indicate that this was a colony. Townsend's big-eared bat was also observed in this area in 1990 and again in 1996. It is not known if the collection in 1976 or the subsequent sightings occurred at the Boulder Creek mine or another mine in the surrounding area. However, SDRPF staff have observed at least three individuals and recorded photo documentation of Townsend's big-eared bats in the Boulder Creek mine in 2016, and species ID was confirmed by a local bat biologist. This occurrence is included in the SDMMMP MOM database. Pre-installation surveys by a qualified bat biologist will further assess the suitability of the mine for Townsend's big-eared bat which have specific roost preferences and are particularly sensitive to human disturbance. The Boulder Creek mine is subject to human disturbance; the mines in the area are currently included on a public geocache website, and the mine's easy proximity to Boulder Creek Road (mine entrance is 20 yards from Boulder Creek Rd., a heavily traveled backcountry road) makes it accessible to explorers. In addition, SDRPF has noted an increase of an estimated eight inches of sediment build-up at the mine entrance due to erosion since 2012. There is a possibility that sediment build-up could effectively close the mine entrance to bat use.
2. The proposed project will address an urgent need and includes actions that will reduce or manage an identified threat.

There are two main threats to the suitability of this mine as roosting habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat: human access and sediment build-up closing the mine entrance. This project proposes to minimize and/or eliminate both of these threats by installing a gate at the mine entrance that prevents human access but allows bat access. This gate would be designed and installed by a company that has experience and knowledge in closing mines for bat conservation purposes. Additionally, the build-up of sediment would be controlled through the installation of erosion control measures which would include straw wattles and other materials if deemed necessary. The continued monitoring of bats in this mine and the assessment of the surrounding habitat within the preserve will guide the development of management recommendations for Townsend's big-eared bat at this location. The development of educational material will help promote conservation of Townsend's big-eared bat. The San Diego River Park Foundation is well-suited to utilize these materials to reach the public, including the 2,500+ students annually that participate in their field-based outdoor education programs, the 7,000+ volunteers they work with annually, and the 42,000+ community members that follow their digital communications. Additionally, the mine gate will eliminate a safety hazard for humans.
3. Success criteria have been identified and will be monitored and reported.

The success of this project will be monitored through the successful completion of each task. The success of each task will be reported through a combination of letter reports, photodocumentation, and the submittal of plans/designs (see Exhibit A). The results of one task may influence the implementation of another as with the pre-installation monitoring and the installation of the mine gate. Other task, such as the preserve assessment, can occur independently. By increasing the suitability and likelihood of Townsend's big-eared bat roost establishment, and implementing monitoring and promoting conservation of this species, this project will be successful as a whole.

4. Success of the proposed project is likely with clear, measurable, proven results that will promote conservation.

The proposed project's activities reflect short-term investments that would result in short-term and long-term returns toward improving the mine as Townsend's big-eared bat habitat and bat conservation in general. For instance, installing the mine gate will prevent human disturbance in the mine which is beneficial for all bats, especially Townsend's big-eared bat. The installation of bat monitoring equipment and educational material will allow continual monitoring of any potentially occurring bats in the mine and the promotion of bat conservation. The preserve assessment survey will be successful by providing habitat information and management recommendations that have not yet been evaluated for this site.

5. Any activities necessary to maintain the proposed project after the 18-month grant period have been identified and funding for those activities has been secured. Please explain what source of funding (if any) has been used to fund this activity in the past and what kind of funding is available to support this work in the future (if needed).

The pre-installation survey, gate installation, preserve assessment survey, and educational materials installation tasks will be completed within 18 months of receiving an NTP. However, the use of the bat monitoring equipment will be ongoing as a long-term monitoring and educational effort. Depending on the model of bat monitoring equipment used, the mine entrance may need to be visited on a monthly basis to change the batteries in the equipment, but could easily be done in a way that minimizes disturbance to any potentially occurring bats. The ongoing cost of monitoring and any maintenance that arises would be built into the San Diego River Park Foundation's Land Management budget for the Boulder Creek Preserve, with a strategy to fund inspections and site visits through grants, private donations, and other organizational funds. SDRPF also has a robust team of trained preserve volunteers, who increase capacity for simple maintenance visits.

Additional educational opportunities may arise from this project and would be implemented outside the scope of this project as an added benefit to the short-term project. The San Diego River Park Foundation is in the permitting phase for building a nature education facility in Mission Valley, and the Boulder Creek Preserve has already been identified as a remote field station for this center, connecting urban visitors (including 25,000 kids/year) to conservation efforts in the backcountry. The monitoring data and interpretation developed as a result of this project would find a long-term home there, greatly widening the audience receiving bat conservation education, and any continuing expenses would be included in the operational budget for the center.

6. To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be on lands conserved for native habitat within the MSP area. Where is the project located? (Attach a map)

The proposed project is located within MU10 (see Figure 1)

**B. Scope of Work by Task**

**Exhibit A – Proposed Project Scope of Work**

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Task Name</b>	<b>Task Description</b>	<b>Quantifiable Results/Deliverables</b>
1	Field Assessment (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	Prior to implementation, the qualified bat biologist shall conduct a field assessment within the project area to assess the suitability of the mine as a potential Townsend's big-eared bat roost site and potential impacts from the project. Any recommendations from the bat biologist regarding the installation of the mine gate would be delivered to SDRPF and considered when planning the final gate design and installation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter memo from bat biologist</li> <li>• assessment results</li> </ul>
2	Mine gate installation	The mine gate installation company would perform the necessary activities to install a gate designed specifically for this mine, including any drilling, welding, and movement of materials to ensure the gate is securely installed, to prevent human access while providing suitable access for any Townsend's big-eared bats, as well as other small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design plans for bat gate</li> <li>• Photodocumentation of gate installation</li> </ul>
3	Erosion control	After the gate installation activities are complete, the biological consultant company will install erosion control materials near the mine to minimize the threat of sediment build-up at the entrance to the mine. SDRPF staff would regularly assess the effectiveness of the erosion control measures during routine preserve visits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photodocumentation of erosion control</li> <li>• Final project erosion report</li> </ul>
4	Bat monitoring equipment installation	A passive bat monitoring device (such as Anabat) would be installed by the biological consultant company at the mine to identify and monitor any potentially occurring bats. In addition, SDRPF staff will purchase simple mobile monitoring system to be used near adjacent water source to further document bat activity. The data collected would be used both for educational purposes and to assist in species management. The bat monitoring device would provide continual data on the presence of any bats utilizing the mine without disturbing the bats through conventional bat surveys (human disturbance on-site).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photodocumentation of installed system</li> <li>• Summary report of data collected</li> </ul>
5	Preserve assessment	The biological consultant company would conduct a survey of the area surrounding the mine within the 13-acre preserve. Any threats to habitat would be documented, especially those that impact the suitability of habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat or other sensitive species. Recommendations for management of these threats and other activities, including use of pesticide on the preserve to treat gold-spotted oak borer, will be included in the report. An outline of remedial measures or recommendations for future management activities would be delivered to SDRPF, and would be used to determine what future management activities would be beneficial for Townsend's big-eared bat and other biological resources at the Boulder Creek Preserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Preserve Assessment and Management Recommendations Report</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
6	Educational materials development	SDRPF staff and consultant will use data, reports and recommendations developed in other tasks to create interpretive materials to educate the public about responsible use, threats and sensitivity of the Townsend's big eared bat, and conservation efforts to protect it, project results, and the important role of bats in the ecosystem. Signage would be installed within the preserve but not at the mine in order to protect the mine from unauthorized access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital submittal of interpretive materials</li> <li>• Photodocumentation of installation of interpretive signage</li> </ul>
7	Administrative	Invoice preparation and processing, payment to vendors and contracts, budget oversight	Quarterly invoices and reports

C. Budget by Task

Exhibit B – Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Grant Request
1	Field Assessment (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	\$2,645.96
2	Mine gate installation	\$7,556.40
3	Erosion control	\$4,412.82
4	Bat monitoring equipment installation	\$11,978.85
5	Preserve assessment	\$2,418.57
6	Educational materials development	\$11,208.84
7	Administrative	\$7,105.02
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$47,326.46</b>
<b>Indirect Cost ( _ %)</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$47,326.46</b>

D. Project Schedule

Exhibit C – Proposed Project Schedule

Task No.	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1	Field Assessment (Pre-Impl. Monitoring)	0 Month from NTP	1 Months	10/31/2020
2	Mine gate installation	0 Month from NTP	18 Months	4/1/2020
3	Erosion control	0 Month from NTP	18 Months	4/1/2020
4	Bat monitoring equipment installation	0 Month from NTP	18 Months	4/1/2020
5	Preserve assessment	0 Month from NTP	18 Months	4/1/2020
6	Educational signage installation	2 Months from NTP	18 Months	4/1/2020
7	Administrative	0 Months from NTP	18 Months	4/1/2020

Unexpected weather conditions would not have an effect on project timeline. A delayed NTP could affect pre-installation bat survey scheduling, but this delay would not impact project success. The surveys could still be performed, but could fall outside of optimal survey window.

**NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES**

SANDAG’s Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Land Management Grant Program projects are funded with *TransNet* revenues consistent with the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance adopted by the voters in November 2004 (SANDAG Ordinance 04-01). Although SANDAG Ordinance 04-01 does not require payment of prevailing wages, California law may require that public works projects pay prevailing wages for workers.

Applicant acknowledges that SANDAG has strongly encouraged Applicant to seek legal counsel regarding whether the Proposed Project will require applicant to pay prevailing wages and agrees that SANDAG will have no liability for conducting this analysis.  Yes  No

Applicant acknowledges that if awarded an EMP Land Management Grant, the grant agreement between SANDAG and the grantee requires grantee’s compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the Agreement.  Yes  No

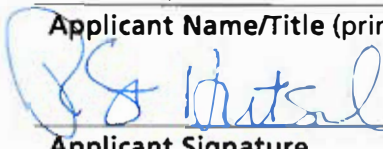
**REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT**

- Yes  No The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- Yes  No If the SANDAG Board of Directors approves the proposed project proposal, the proposed applicant agrees to sign and return the Agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions or amendments, within 45 days of receipt.
- Yes  No The applicant agrees to comply with SANDAG’s Board Policy No. 035, Competitive Grant Program Procedures, which outlines “Use-it-or-lose-it” project milestone and completion deadlines. Board Policy No. 035 is included in the Agreement, and also is on SANDAG’s website at the following link: [sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy\\_035.pdf](http://sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf)
- Yes  No The applicant understands that 10 percent of all invoices will be retained until the completion of the proposed project.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that all invoices must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds and payment will not be made by SANDAG until all documents are satisfactorily submitted.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that invoices and reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis within three weeks after the period covering January 1 to March 31; within three weeks after the period covering April 1 to June 30; within three weeks after the period covering July 1 to September 30; and within three weeks after the period covering October 1 to December 31.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that the EMP quarterly report template (to be sent to the grantee after NTP is issued) must be used to document quarterly progress and that invoices with errors will be returned to the grantee for correction prior to being processed by SANDAG staff.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that the final invoice must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds; a final report (prepared in accordance with the final report template to be sent to grantee after NTP is issued); and all outstanding deliverables in order to receive final payment and have retained funds released.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that to be considered eligible for funding, a resolution complying with the requirements of Board Policy No. 035, Section 4.1, must be submitted to SANDAG at least *two weeks* prior to the recommendation by the Regional Planning Committee of the list of prioritized project proposals. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee’s anticipated meeting date.
- Yes  No The applicant agrees to submit all project data/information to SANDAG in a format compatible with the regional management database.

**I have the authorization to submit this proposal (Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials) on behalf of my organization.**

Rob Hutsel, President and CEO, The San Diego River Park Foundation

**Applicant Name/Title (print or type)**

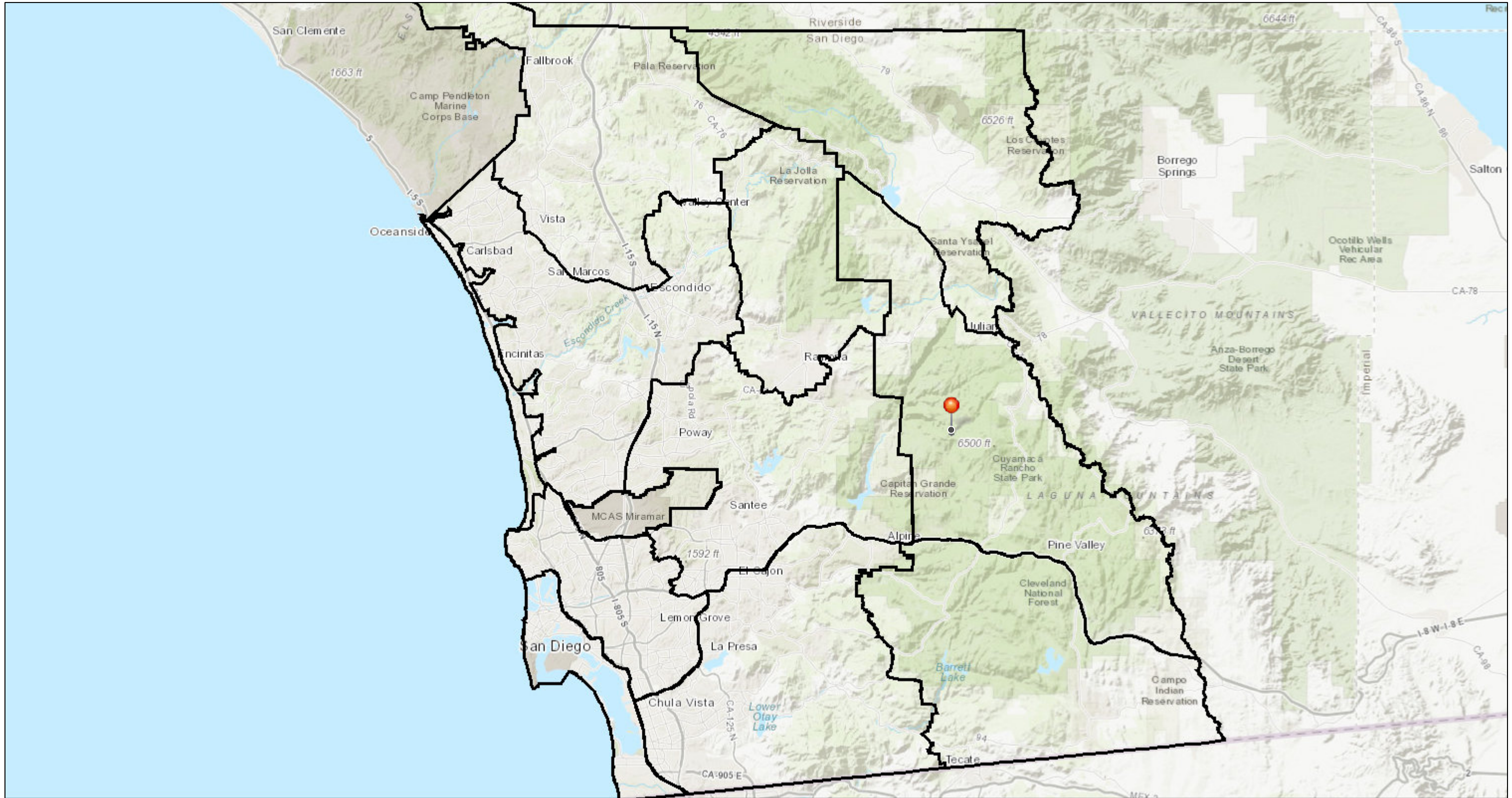


**Applicant Signature**

1/12/18

**Date**

# ArcGIS Web Map



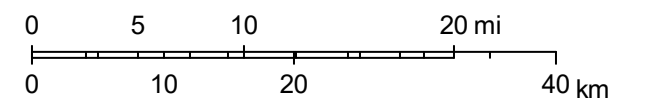
1/9/2018, 2:55:58 PM

MSP\_Management\_Units

Figure 1: Boulder Creek Mine Location

Coordinates: 32.963972, -116.664984

1:577,791



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS