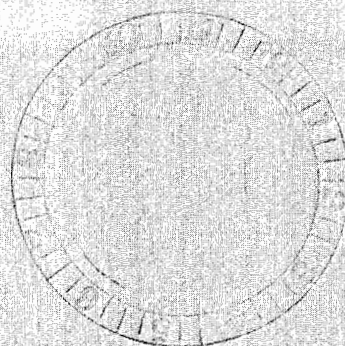




December 6, 2010

Mr. David Merk
Environmental Services Department
San Diego Unified Port District
PO Box 120488
San Diego, CA 92112-0488



**Light-footed Clapper Rail Propagation and Sweetwater Marsh Nesting Enhancement Project
Progress Report, January 2010 – Document No. 53889**

Dear Mr. Merk:

The Chula Vista Nature Center (Center) is pleased to provide you with this status report for activities supported by funds requested for Light-footed clapper rail captive propagation and artificial nest platform deployment. The following information has been provided by Director of Conservation and Communications Charles Gailband.

2009 Breeding and Release Activities

The Center housed and exhibited two breeding pairs of clapper rails and obtained one additional single male for exhibition in 2009. Both breeding pairs produced multiple clutches of chicks for release in to the wild for the 2009 breeding season. The conclusion of the 2009 season resulted in 42 clapper rails being released to the wild – 253 rails released since 2001. In addition to breeding and exhibiting clapper rails, the Center continues to be the sole facilitator of the important pre-release behavioral conditioning for all release rails. The pre-release conditioning is a four to six week process which happens within Sweetwater Marsh.

2009 Artificial Nest Platform Deployment and Nest Monitoring

By January 2010 ten artificial nest platforms were deployed into Sweetwater Marsh. Five of the nests are in the southern portion of the marsh and five are in the northern marsh, proximal to the main tidal channel and cord grass restoration undertaken by the Unified Port of San Diego. The nest structures are the same design as those in 2008. The design offers increased protection from aerial predators while rising and falling with the tides.

Center staff assisted biologists with the spring call counts in Sweetwater Marsh and surrounding areas. Counts revealed five clapper rail pairs in Sweetwater Marsh and one pair in the South Bay Marine Preserve. No pairs were detected in E Street Marsh, F Street Marsh, or J Street Marsh in 2009.

Other Notable Accomplishments

Several notable events and accomplishments of 2009:

- A Clapper rail produced in captivity and returned to the wild was seen and photographed with offspring in Los Peñasquitos Preserve. This is the first sighting of captive produced rails with young in the wild.
- A web camera that features a breeding pair of rails at the Center was installed and brought on-line. Anyone with access to the internet can observe and learn about Light-footed clapper rail activities – including rarely seen behaviors and age classes.
- The Center and breeding partners were awarded with the *Plume Award for Noteworthy Achievement in Avian Husbandry* by the Association of Zoo and Aquarium's Avian Scientific Advisory Group.
- The Center continues to increase general admission guest attendance, 65,000, and formal educational programs.

Thank you for your continued assistance with the Light-footed Clapper Rail Propagation & Sweetwater Marsh Nesting Enhancement Project.

Sincerely,



Julie Schardin
Director of Development

cc: Eileen Maher

Chula Vista Nature Center...

Celebrating 23 Years of Conservation, Environmental Education and Family Recreation

The Chula Vista Nature Center has been an important community asset for more than 23 years in San Diego's South Bay. After the City of Chula Vista's severe budget cuts, this unique treasure recently transitioned successfully into its own independent nonprofit organization.

The Nature Center is providing exciting new programs, exhibits and guest opportunities. Recent new and temporary exhibits include: Black Jellies, Horseshoe Crabs and Sea Turtle Hatchlings. Day camps are now being offered in conjunction with local school calendared breaks. The camps provide an affordable fun, hands-on educational experience for local families. In addition to these fun day camps, the Nature Center is also offering a new Overnight Adventures program for families, scouts and other groups.

The Chula Vista Nature Center is truly a regional gem that continues to provide a world-class museum with hands-on exhibits and live animal encounters while promoting coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through education.



Sweetwater Marsh Inhabitants

The Nature Center is home to over 150 native species of animals (*not including schooling fish*) and close to 200 native plant species.

Each year 10,000 migratory birds make their way through our wetlands.

Endangered and Threatened Species

Animals

- Light-footed Clapper Rails
- Pacific Green Sea Turtles
- Belding's Savannah's Sparrow
- California Least Tern

Plants

- Yerba Ruema
- Salt Marsh Bird's Beak



Nature Center Snap Shot

Annual Visitors:	65,000 visitors
Visiting Schools:	13,000 students from 433 classes
Recent Awards & Honors:	2010 SDG&E Leadership Award 2010 SCEDC Corky McMillin "Best of Best" 2009 Plume Award for Avian Husbandry
Community Outreach:	53,000 people
On-site Education Programs, Public Tours and Events:	15,000 (not including field trips)
Nature Center Members:	1,100+ annual supporters
Full and Part-time Staff:	20
Active Volunteers :	200+
Volunteer Hours Contributed:	14,850 hours
Value of Volunteer Hours:	\$345,857
Special On-site Events:	Annual Food & Wine Classic, scheduled for May 14, 2011 Critters & Cocktails mixers Ongoing Lecture Series

Visit us online at www.ChulaVistaNatureCenter.org



Educational Programs & Interpretive Services

Chula Vista Nature Center is dedicated to providing environmental education on coastal resource conservation and instilling a respect for nature and wildlife in people of all ages.

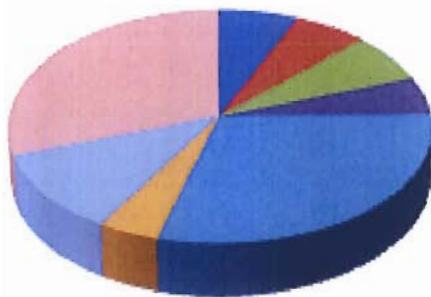
The education endeavors at the Nature Center are based on the programmatic theory that encounters with wildlife in a zoological setting will help people develop caring attitudes towards animals and the environment. We hold that once they develop caring attitudes, these same people are more inclined to have a conservation ethos or will develop a conservation ethos, thus living their life with conservation as a value.

The interpretive and education programs at the Nature Center are approached based on strategies, techniques and methodology that has been shown (through research when possible) to impact attitude development or adoption. For example, the day camp programs at the Nature Center develop caring attitudes in children through play-based learning such as role-playing, mimicking, animal contact and more.

Ongoing Educational Programs

- Year-round Day Camps
- Overnight Adventures
- Scouting Adventures
- Bilingual Interpretive Graphics
- Interactive Animal Encounters/Keeper Talks
- Critters & Crafts Family Programs
- "Make it-Take it" Arts and Crafts for Families
- Preschool Story Time Programs
- Birthday Parties
- "Trash to Treasures" Composting Workshops
- Nature Discovery Tours
- Bird Walks
- Bilingual Tours
- Guided Kayak Adventures
- Family Discovery Nights & Lecture Series
- Special Events (Animals of San Diego Bay Day)
- San Diego Safari Live Animal Outreach Programs
- Field Trips with Docent-Led Tours
- Teacher Trainings
- Docent Trainings

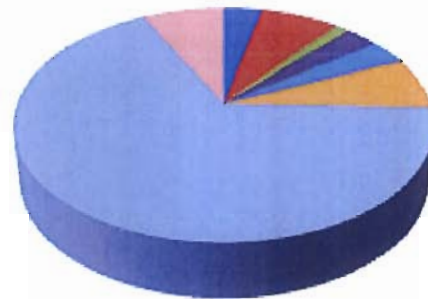
2010-2011 Budgeted Revenue



Total Budgeted Revenue: \$846,548

- Programs: \$60,000
- Events: \$60,000
- Grants: \$264,000
- Gift Shop: \$100,000
- Rentals: \$54,500
- Memberships: \$48,000
- Donations: \$38,000
- Admissions: \$220,000

2010-2011 Budgeted Expenses



Total Budgeted Expenses: \$1,243,770

- Gift Shop: \$45,000
- Educational Expenses: \$15,000
- Consultants: \$42,000
- Personnel: \$832,270
- Marketing Expenses: \$90,000
- Development Expenses: \$40,000
- Shuttle Service: \$86,100
- Supplies & Services: \$93,400