



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, July 20, 7 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 104

NO CHAPTER MEETING IN AUGUST,
WE WILL HAVE A

BEACH PARTY!

Watershed Avengers: Engaging Urban and Diverse Communities in Habitat Restoration through Youth Leadership

by Dylan Edwards

Watershed Avengers is a program of the Ocean Discovery Institute and is led by a team of eight students from Hoover High School. These students engage, educate and inspire the community of City Heights to steward and restore their local canyons, watersheds, and habitats. Over the last two years, this program has connected over 2,000 volunteers in the restoration of Swan Canyon. The community has transformed what was once a canyon degraded by invasive plants, trash, and illegal activity, to a community resource where people can reconnect with nature and learn about native plants and animals. Come learn about our recent success, our exciting next steps in the project, and how you can get involved.

Dylan Edwards is the Environmental Stewardship Coordinator for Ocean Discovery Institute and is the instructor for the team of high school students who lead Watershed Avengers. He is currently a Graduate Student at Prescott College studying Restoration Ecology and Planning. He has been a CNPS member for just under a year.

7:00-7:30: Browse books, get a native plant identified, enjoy refreshments, and find out how you can become more involved.

7:30-8:30: Business meeting and presentation. Chapter meetings are open to the public and are free. They are held the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in Casa del Prado Room 104, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

Come one, come all to the CNPS-San Diego Beach Party, **Tuesday, August 17!** Since we do not have a regular meeting in August, anyone who wants to just relax and get to know other members is invited to join us at North Beach in Coronado (at the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Ocean Drive, across from Sunset Park.) Meet at **6:00 p.m.** at the beach.

There are several fire rings there, so we will have hot dogs (real and tofu), grilled veggies, and S'Mores. Bring your own beverages--appropriate ones only. (This ain't Floatopia, y'know!) The obsessed botanists among us can look for *Camissonia lewisii*, *Lotus nuttaliana*, and *Nemacaulis denudata* on the dunes. The rest of us can enjoy the sunset, the beach, the waves, beach games, and a bonfire!

You know that inside you there's a Beach Boy or Beach Girl yearning to be set free--so do it! RSVP to hospitality@cnpsd.org so we know how much food to buy. Everything is completely and totally FREE! On the other hand, any donations will be cheerfully accepted.

Directions: Cross the Coronado Bridge, turn left onto Orange Ave (0.8 mi.); slight right onto Isabella Ave. (0.3 mi.); slight right onto Ocean Blvd (0.5 mi). Park on the street.



VEEP SPEAKS

In April, SB 1293 was introduced by two state Senators, Ducheny and Hollingsworth, on the urging of a group of individuals in San Diego County. This group hopes SB 1293 will enable them to remove trees and large areas of shrub-lands throughout the County. In a "Public Points" paper, they state their belief that creating huge patches of different aged shrublands will protect structures and special conservation lands from destruction.

For proof, they are convinced the County-funded thinning of trees and shrubs at the foot of Mount Palomar prevented the Pamoocha Fire from destroying the rest of the forest on Mount Palomar. Their faith that forest trees were protected because of the thinning is debatable: wind speed reduction is the major cause of wildfires ceasing to move. And with respect to protecting structures, fire science has proven that, beyond a 100' zone of smart fuel management, cutting farther does not reduce fire risk to a structure. Doing as they want therefore spends money that could be used to reduce risk in effective actions, and damages natural resources, with no gain in risk reduction for structures.

Other financial factors that affect this decision are rarely brought out in discussions, but exist. What is not at all vague is that these people hope SB1293 will let them alter the California Environmental Quality Act process so public agencies can remove huge tracts of native shrubland in State Responsibility Areas and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Many people find it reasonable that going through CEQA for vegetative fuel management within 100' of structures or 30' of roads is not necessary, but this bill has no such limitations: these projects could be anywhere within the enormous area of SRA's and HFHSZ's.

CNPS is following this bill closely and the San Diego Chapter will be participating with others throughout the state. Since action may take place during the summer, if you want updates please email me at fieldtrips@cnpsd.org and I will send you updates.

~ **Kay Stewart**, Chapter Vice President

BOARD MEETING

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, **July 7** at 6:30 at the San Diego Audubon office at **4010 Morena Boulevard, Suite 100**. From the I-5, exit Balboa east and turn north on Morena. **No Board meeting will be held in August**. Board meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of the month.

BOARD NOTES

The board voted at the June 2 meeting to approve a \$500 mini grant for Cuyamaca College. Amy Huie was appointed as co-chair of the propagation committee. The board voted to approach the authors of the Manual of California Vegetation about concerns that the book will be cited to support fire policies that conflict with CNPS state fire policy. A written statement will be requested from the authors for our website that will address this issue. The board rejected the new state logo and voted to stay with the old one. We agreed with three East Bay chapter resolutions on desert solar development and voted to support them.

~ **Tom Beltran**, Secretary

FIELD TRIPS / PUBLIC PLANT WALKS

The walk in Tecolote Canyon (see p. 3) is the only outing planned for July or August. No field trips or other public plant walks are scheduled for July or August.



Kay Stewart and helper tending the native plant garden at Old Town State Park.

A MOLECULAR FIELD TRIP?

Native grasses (*Nassella pulchra*, *N. lepida*, *Melica imperfecta*) were the focus of our June 16th walk through Poway's Grasslands, but the local wildflowers were just as attractive, including seldom seen ones such as *Dudleya variegata*, as well as a healthy population of coast barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*). What turned one of the ongoing conversations molecular, however, was a common wine-cup (*Clarkia purpurea* ssp. *quadrivulnera*) with unusual flowers. Its petals were the normal purple at the tip, but white at the base and streaked rose in between. Could that coloration be due to a plant virus similar to that of the bizarre Dutch "Parrot Tulips", or was there a simpler explanation?

For that, think of the white-flowering forms not uncommon in many plants, which are usually caused by a mutation affecting one of the genes involved in the synthesis of the pigment(s) responsible for their normal color. Such mutations often do not occur in the germ-line, which would make them inheritable (passed on to the offspring). Instead, they are somatic, i.e. local genetic defects acquired by cells during tissue growth. They can be triggered by environmental influences (UV damage, herbicides, etc.) or due to occasional mistakes during the complicated events involved in cell replication. That the lack of flower color can be due to somatic rather than germ-line mutations is proven by the occurrence of white variants in species owing their normal yellow or orange color to a pigment class called carotinoids (such as, for instance, species of *Eschscholzia*), since whole plants deficient in carotinoids would not be viable but would die as seedlings. The defect must therefore have occurred late in the individual's development, for example, during flower formation.

Now, let's come back to our unusual *Clarkia* in the Grasslands. Its flowers began to develop normally resulting in purple petal tips, but then something went wrong and its pigments (in this case probably anthocyanins) could no longer be synthesized, resulting in streaking and eventually complete lack of color in the lowest (latest growing) part of the petals. So no fancy virus is needed, which would probably have resulted in a less regular color pattern. It was just a small mishap during otherwise normal growth.

Discussions like this can greatly enhance the joy of a field trip, as you don't just observe unusual phenomena, but also



Clarkia purpurea
ssp. *quadrivulnera*

wonder why and how they might have arisen. I am not sure though, whether they are of interest to many of our fellow plant enthusiasts. If you are, be forewarned— the humble Grassland *Clarkia* led to even farther-ranging speculations about genetics and recent major taxonomic changes (e.g. What ever happened to our Scrophs?!), and you might read about those in one of the next issues.

~ W. Jürgen Schrenk

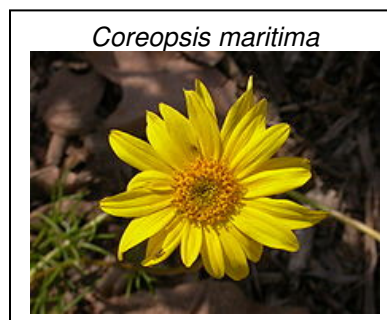
MONTHLY TECOLOTE CANYON WALK

July 4 and August 1. 9:00-11:30 a.m. Kay Stewart will lead this walk. Meet at the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, at the end of Tecolote Road, past all the ball fields. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of every month, therefore: September 5, October 3, etc.

BOTANIZING

CNPS-SD doesn't have any field trips scheduled for July or August, but there are places you can go to view native plants, even in the summer. Read on to find out how the spring 2010 wildflower season fared, and where you can find flowers this summer.

As far as wildflowers go, the spring of 2010 will go down as a very decent one. While the rainfall was close to normal along the coast (Lindberg Field had 10.53 inches) and slightly above in the interior (Cuyamaca Lake had 38.71 inches), the rain was spaced adequately so that vegetation could fully utilize its benefits. The rain that fell in April and the cool temperatures in May helped extend the flowering season.



Coreopsis maritima

The coastal wildflowers, especially the sea dalea (*Coreopsis maritima*) flowered profusely at Torrey Pines State Park and Point Loma. The coastal sage scrub was invigorated so that it was a very good year for San

Diego sunflower (*Bahiopsis* [= *Viguiera*] *laciniata*). South facing slopes in canyons throughout the coast, such as Rose Canyon and Murphy Canyon, were yellow with its flowers. The slopes along the toll road to Ensenada in the Salsipuedes area where a fire occurred a few years ago were yellow with its color in the end of April and early May. *Camissonia cheiranthifolia* ssp. *suffruticosa* is also still in flower in the Ocean Beach area at the end of Interstate 8. Of course, this was also a great year for the crown daisy (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*) that invaded coastal San

Diego during the 1970's and has taken over large areas. This was also a good year for vernal pool plants with toothed calicoflower (*Downingia cuspidata*) flowering for a long time stimulated by late rains and cool temperatures.

At the time of this writing in early June, the hills east of Ramona and around Ballena Valley that were burned in the Witch Fire are also yellow, but from a dense cover of deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*) and tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*) were still flowering around Cuyamaca Lake. For the months of July and August, the showy flower displays diminish. However, summer thunderstorms resulting from moisture drifting from the south and southeast typically occur in the mountainous region and stimulate more plant growth and flowering. It would be difficult to find showy displays of wildflowers in San Diego County, but there are a few reliable locations to observe specific species of flowers in the summer. The best place to observe flowers in July and August are the mountainous regions, particularly at Mount Laguna. Off of Kitchen Creek Road, the lavender blue Laguna Mountain Aster (*Machaeranthera asteroides* var. *lagunensis*) can be found during August. Golden fleece or Parish goldenbush (*Ericameria parishii*) grows as a relatively large shrub with clusters of yellow-orange flowers along the Sunrise Highway. Sometimes in July, the bright orange hulsea (*Hulsea californica*) flower into July, especially the areas burned in the fires of the past 8 years. The white-flowered, strong scented San Felipe monardella (*Monardella nana* ssp. *leptosiphon*) can be found on the ridges east of Burnt Rancheria campground on Mount Laguna. Other plants that can sometimes be found there include Indian paintrush (*Castilleja affinis*), various types of lupine, and summer snow (*Leptosiphon floribundus*) can also be found flowering high in the mountains during July. The rare blue-flowered San Jacinto Mountain bluecurls (*Trichostema austromontanum*) can also be found in a few pockets along the Sunrise Highway where moisture stands later than normal. Showy wildflowers can be found in San Diego County in July and August, it just takes a little exploring to find them.

CDFG NEEDS RARE PLANT INFORMATION

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is in the process of reviewing the status of State-listed plants. They need information regarding *Galium angustifolium* ssp. *borregoense*. They would appreciate receiving any information you can provide on the status of occurrences, including population size, population trend, potential threats, research, and management.

If you know of someone who could provide this information, please let them know. Contact Kevin Ponce of the Habitat Conservation Planning Branch, Rare Plant Division, 916-651-1357, kponce@dfg.ca.gov if you have any information to share or if you have any questions.

CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Conservation Committee has lot going on this year! If you're interested in local or regional conservation, please get involved. We need more people to read documents, comment on them, and attend public meetings. We'll train you if you're interested. Here's this month's crop:

The Marine Corps at Miramar is looking at the environmental impacts of basing a wing of the new F-35 fighter jets here. The big problem with this project is that most of the options have them destroying vernal pools south of the existing runway, wiping out the endangered species that currently live there. CNPS wrote a letter supporting either not housing the F-35s at Miramar at all, or following the least damaging alternative, which would avoid impacts to the vernal pools.

The BLM wants to change how it manages the Algodones Dunes in Imperial County, and their current proposal is to let the off-roaders drive everywhere except the wilderness area and the critical habitat area for the endangered Peirson's milk vetch (*Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii*). The problem? The critical habitat shrank significantly in 2008 under the Bush administration, it's under litigation, and the habitat looks like an amoeba anyway, so it will be hard for even the most environmentally conscientious dune drivers to avoid impacting sensitive areas. CNPS is working with other conservation groups to get the BLM to protect more of the southern Algodones Dunes. There are far more issues involved there than just the milk vetch – stayed tuned!

San Diego's stormwater EIR update: The issue will be ultimately be decided by the San Diego City Council. We are working with other environmental groups to modify the program to become something that is environmentally benign and much less costly. The current proposal is to clear the channels so that everything flows straight into the ocean. This is obviously bad for the vegetation that is ripped out and bad for anyone living downstream or along the coast.

Solar Two, the massive (6,500-acre) solar energy project south of Anza Borrego, is still lumbering forward, and

there are still major issues that remain unresolved. CNPS is urging the state energy commission not to approve this project until we know all of the project's impacts, and have a good plan in place to avoid or mitigate them.

~ **Frank Landis**, Conservation Committee

CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference Conserving and Restoring the Roots of California's Richness January 13-15 with workshops Jan 16-17, 2012 Town and Country Hotel, San Diego

This summer CNPS will be recruiting volunteers to help on the Arrangements Committee for the 2012 Conservation Conference. Volunteers from San Diego are needed! CNPS is planning to add a public education day with field trips, workshops, and children's programs for this conference, and is planning to host a Science Café, art and photography contests, poetry reading, and offer a range of student events. The conference will be followed by two days of workshops (Jan 16-17) on a wide variety of topics. The Call for Abstracts will go out in early spring of 2011. Up to date information and opportunities will be posted on the conference webpage at:

<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/meetings.php>.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Join us for Native Landscapes for Water Conservation at the Clairemont Branch Library on July 8, 2010, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m.

It has been a busy spring outreach season for the Public Outreach Committee! We held booths at Earth Fair in Balboa Park, Sage and Songbirds Festival in Alpine, and Explore Mission Trails Day. Our committee members and several other volunteers mingled with the crowds, sold books, and told a lot of people about our monthly meetings. On behalf of the Chapter, I want to give special thanks to everybody who helped out, including:

Betsy Cory
Erika Bjorkquist
Juliana Morse
Pat Fishstein
Dave Fleitner
Scott Jones

Vince Schiedt
Margy Day
Jim SoeNyun
Mike Bregantic
Elizabeth Wilkinson
Chris Brennan

And also thanks to **Carolyn Martus**, **Ed Schwind**, **Connie Beck**, and **Pete DiGirolamo** for donating beautiful native plants that decorated our booths! It was really fun to get to know all the volunteers and share the experience with them. We are ready to plan for the Fall so please get in touch if there is an event in which you

want CNPS involved or if you want to get involved yourself! Please contact me, David Varner.

~ **David Varner**, Public Outreach Chair



Arne Johanson talks with children at Explore Mission Trails Day.



CNPS Public Outreach booth at Earth Fair, April 2010. From left to right: **Jim SoeNyun**, **Chris Brennan**, **David Varner**.

GARDEN PHOTOS NEEDED

The Public Outreach Committee is compiling a photo book of beautiful California native gardens for display at our events. We will give photo credits and landscaping credits for each photo. If you have examples of your garden or your work that you are willing to share, please send digital copies to Margy Day at margyday@gmail.com

VEGETATION SURVEYS

With summer in full swing, we're nearing the end of our vegetation survey events for 2010. If you haven't had the chance to make it out this year, now is the time! **Saturday, July 24th, 10 a.m. Guatay Mtn.** Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Starbucks parking lot in Alpine (2963 Alpine Blvd.). The early start time should allow for a bit of relief from the July heat. To get there from west of Alpine, take I-8 east and exit at Tavern Rd. (Exit 30) toward Alpine, turn right onto Tavern Rd., and left at Alpine Blvd. The parking lot is 1.7 miles east of Tavern Rd. on Alpine Blvd. From here, we'll caravan to a parking lot at the base of Guatay Mountain, northwest of Pine Valley.

From the final parking lot, the group will hike to the top of the mountain (approximately 2.5 miles from where the cars will be parked). The trail is ranked as moderately strenuous, but being that plants easily distract the group, the pace will be set for botanizing (i.e. slow).

The survey will take place on Cleveland National Forest land; therefore Adventure Passes will need to be displayed in vehicles that park onsite. **Please RSVP by Friday, July 23rd** and say if you have an Adventure Pass. Survey events are free and open to the public (although CNPS membership is encouraged!). Light snacks and beverages are provided for volunteers. If you are interested, we could use your help, regardless of your experience. To RSVP or request more information, email vegetation@cnpssd.org or you may call **Anna Bennett** at (559)443-9233. **Note: Vegetation surveys are not scheduled for August.**



Vegetation Survey at Viejas Mountain on May 22, 2010. **Bob Greenberg** sights the edge a relevé survey plot.

RARE PLANT SURVEYS

Well, the CNPS rare plant surveys are over for the year. Volunteers went out between mid-April and mid-May surveying for the endangered San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*). We only surveyed known populations, and we found thornmints in most of them. As of press time, results are still trickling in, but the preliminary reports are widely variable. In a few locations, we found numbers had remained stable. In other places where a few were found last time, thousands were found this year. There will be a more substantive report in the next newsletter, once the numbers have been crunched.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE THORN MINT HUNT THIS YEAR: **Bev Pecunia, Birgit Knorr, Brian Arnold, Cameron Newell, Carol McKie Manning, Cindy Burrascano, Cornelius Bouscaren, David Varner, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Erika Bjorkquist, Georg Coermann, James Lightner, Janet Franklin, Jennifer Tillman, Jim Soe Nyun, John Hopper, Jon Murphy, Jonathan Snapp-Cook, Kye Ok Kim, Linda Pardy, Lindsay Willrick, Lisa Gadsby, Margaret Fillius, Margy Day, Maryanne Bache, Pamela Haehn, Robert Greenberg, and Torrey Neel.** ADDITIONALLY, SPECIAL THANKS to **Jessie Vinje**, for providing the training we all needed, and to **Jonathan Snapp-Cook, Fred Roberts, Vince Scheidt, and Dave Flietner** for coming up with the original idea and getting it rolling.

~ **Frank Landis**, Rare Plant Surveys Chair

FALL PLANT SALE – OCTOBER 16

Our fall plant sale will take place on Saturday, October 16th, at the courtyard next to the Casa del Prado, across from the west entrance to the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers to help organize this year's sale. No plant experience necessary; we need organized individuals with good communication and basic computer skills.

Specific tasks are needed now for our fall plant sale. The time commitment is dependent on you, and many of these tasks can be done on your own:

Seed Team: Help clean and package seeds for the sale.

Publicity: Write a press release, contact news outlets about the sale, help get flyers out to groups.

Plant Ordering: We order some of our plants from the local nurseries and need one or two people to help keep the orders organized and help with plant labeling.

Home Growers: Perhaps you have some plants on your property that you can re-pot up or propagate from cuttings? If you're a novice at plant propagation, we encourage you to pick up one of the many books on native plant propagation, see our website for a complete listing, or e-mail us with your questions. We have many experienced members who can help you get started with native plant propagation.

~ Plant Sale Committee

SEED COLLECTION

Summer has begun and many of the spring flowers have faded; however, many of those plants are now bearing fruit and seed. The San Diego CNPS chapter is offering field trips to collect native plant seed. This means that there are still opportunities for you, the spring flower field-trippers, to come on out and see your favorite native plants during a different stage of their life-cycles. Please join us for events that focus on seed collection technique, conservation issues and nature observation. Bring water, sturdy shoes and a sun hat.

Saturday, July 10, 2010: Florida Canyon in Balboa Park. Meet at the large *Ficus* tree in front of the Natural History Museum at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 17, 2010: Encinitas area – the exact location is still to be determined. Contact Jason to get the location. Meet at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 7, 2010: Poway area – the exact location is still to be determined. Contact Jason to get the location. Meet at 9:00 a.m.

Hope to see you there! Feel free to contact Jason R. Sundberg at seeds@cnpsd.org or (906) 251-0392.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL GROUP

First Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to noon. We focus on tools for controlling invasive weeds for the purpose of habitat restoration and fire prevention. We try to touch on all aspects from evaluation and planning, laws and regulations, various control techniques, through to ongoing maintenance. All members are welcome. We schedule once a month but our daily program allows for other times to fit your schedule. Boots, long pants and long sleeves are required; eye protection is optional but recommended. Contact me for meeting place, directions, gate code & further info at invasiveplants@cnpsd.org.

~ Arne Johanson, Invasive Plant Chair

GARDEN WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Park Native Garden: Saturday, July 10 and August 14, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Rain cancels. Please bring weeding tools, hand pruners, loppers and gloves. A drinking fountain is on site. The garden is located at the western edge of Old Town State Park, across from the Trolley station at Taylor and Congress Streets. Park at the west end of the free State Park parking lot, between the garden and Calhoun Street. This work party is always on the second Saturday of the month.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: July 3 and 18, August 7 and 21, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Bring water. No facilities on site. Tools and supplies provided. Always the first Saturday and third Sunday of the month. Email Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

Fall WORKSHOPS AT JOSHUA NATIONAL PARK

The Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park is offering a variety of classes in the fall of 2010. For a class list, visit:

http://desertinstitute.homestead.com/classes/class_list.html. For a catalog, information, and/or registration, call 760-367-5535 or visit www.joshuatree.org

CALENDAR

- 7/3: Invasive Plant Control Group (p. 7)
- 7/3: Point Loma Native Plant Garden Work Party (p.7)
- 7/7: **Board Meeting (p. 2)**
- 7/3: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)
- 7/4: Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 5)
- 7/8: Public outreach event (p. 5)
- 7/10: Old Town Work Party (p. 7)
- 7/10: Seed collection (p. 6)
- 7/17: Seed collection (p. 6)
- 7/18: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)
- 7/20: **Chapter Meeting (p. 1)**
- 7/24: Vegetation survey, Guatay Mtn (p. 5)
- 8/7: Invasive Plant Control Group (p. 7)
- 8/7: Seed collection (p. 6)
- 8/7: Point Loma Native Plant Garden Work Party (p.7)
- 8/14: Old Town Work Party (p. 7)
- 8/17: **Beach Party!!!** (p. 1)
- 8/21: Point Loma Native Plant Garden Work Party (p.7)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ Student or Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$45; ___ Family, Group or Library \$75
___ Plant Lover \$100; ___ Patron \$300; ___ Benefactor \$600; ___ Mariposa Lily \$1,500

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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