



## FACT SHEET | The San Diego Foundation 2017 *Opening the Outdoors* Grant

### WHO

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is a grant recipient of \$41,200, awarded by The San Diego Foundation *Opening the Outdoors* 2017. See [news release](#)

### WHAT IT FUNDS

The grant funds **San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy's GET OUT IN NATURE (GOIN')**, a grades 3-5 Escondido watershed project under the Conservancy's broader **Our Living Watershed** conservation education program.

"Working with children who are making new discoveries and learning about their connections with nature is rewarding," said Tara Fuad, Education Director at San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy. "We often meet children who have not seen the coast or a lagoon, and who rarely visit natural parks. Through interactive field trips, classroom learning, and involving their families, we inspire this generation to reach back into their neighborhoods and schools to embrace nature as central to a healthy community."

GOIN' aims to inspire upstream Escondido watershed communities to enjoy parks and open spaces, and take actions to ensure that these places are protected in perpetuity. The Conservancy's goals are to increase the number of students who participate in outdoor nature experiences in Escondido; to connect students to nature through watershed literacy and relevancy lessons and programs; and to instill a life-long conservation ethic among students and their families in partnering Escondido schools.

- More than 2,000 students, their teachers and families benefited from multiple lagoon field trips and watershed family adventure events last year
- An additional 3,400 families attend seasonal Family Discovery Days at the nature center; the Conservancy provides funded chartered buses to and from Escondido

San Elijo Lagoon is in the Escondido Watershed, named for its biggest creek. Beginning above Lake Wohlford, Escondido creek winds through forest and urban streams for 26 miles to meet the ocean through San Elijo Lagoon. Youth in Escondido's elementary schools, upstream in the watershed, are learning how flowing water connects our communities.

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Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, **San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY** is the nonprofit land trust for San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Its **vision** is a world where biodiversity is preserved and people act to conserve nature and embrace it as central to a healthy community.

The **mission** is to protect and restore the resources of San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.