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**River Park Foundation to Observe
September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance
Giant Community Cleanup at Qualcomm Stadium**

San Diego, CA— Anyone who has ever attended a football game or other event at Qualcomm Stadium may have noticed a greenbelt of plants and trees that runs the length of the parking lot’s southern edge. Have you ever wondered what it is, or perhaps, what is present within the foliage? In amongst the trees and plants lies a historic and fragile river that has served the people of San Diego for over 8,000 years.

On Saturday, September 11, 2010, starting at 9AM, as part of the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, the San Diego River Park Foundation along with community partners including university service clubs, members of our armed forces and individuals will gain access to the river in the southern parking lot of Qualcomm Stadium for a community cleanup of the historic San Diego River in anticipation of a future river park along the 52-mile river.

The San Diego River Park Foundation has been working for 9 years to build community and stewardship around the San Diego River, advocating for a continuous river park system connected by a trail from the mountains to the ocean. The community of Mission Valley is well below national standards for public parks, and the River Park is greatly needed.

“One of the pressing issues in trying to create a river park that is safe and healthy is the presence of what we call ‘legacy trash sites,’” says Rob Hutsel, Executive Director of the San Diego River Park Foundation. “Legacy trash sites are those that have been accumulating over time, sometimes over decades, that can cover several hundred square feet and in some spots be several feet deep. Our plan is to tackle this trash near Qualcomm Stadium in an effort to promote a clean and safe river and promote a healthy community in Mission Valley.”

For the September 11th event, the River Park Foundation has set a lofty yet attainable goal to remove 8,000lbs of trash in just three hours. All volunteers are invited to join this special event to help care for the community. Volunteers will meet near section J-5 in the southwestern section of the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot. All tools and supplies will be provided. Volunteers are required to wear closed-toe shoes and it is recommended that they wear sturdy clothes, a hat and sunscreen.

The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, by presidential decree, recognizes and encourages volunteerism and service to the community as an appropriate way to observe the anniversary of this date by working to create positive action in our communities and our environment.

About The San Diego River Park Foundation

The San Diego River Park Foundation’s mission is to engage people to work toward a better future for the San Diego River and the creation of a 52 mile river parkway from the mountains to the ocean. The River Park Foundation is a non-profit community-based organization that was founded in 2001. Since its founding, it has grown in membership to more than 3000 people and annually organizes volunteers who contribute more than 20,000 hours of service to San Diego.

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