



## San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

*Preserving, protecting and enhancing the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed*

Dear Prospective Docent:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy docent. For the past twenty years, the conservancy has worked to preserve, protect and enhance the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed. With the opening of the nature center on Manchester Avenue in early 2009, we have had an exceptionally exciting and busy year for our education program, and we look forward to another busy year.

We rely heavily on our trained docents to educate school children and the community at large to ensure the continued protection of the lagoon. School groups ranging from kindergarten through college visit the lagoon, with grades K-3 currently representing nearly half of the visitors. Our busiest seasons are fall and spring, but we offer walks year-round.

In order to become a docent, you will need to complete a 7-week training program held on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon beginning October 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing through November 17<sup>th</sup>. The training will take place at the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center located on 2710 Manchester Avenue in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Training will include field trips into different parts of the reserve. Local experts will cover a variety of topics on the plants, animals, geology, hydrology, and archaeology of the reserve. Training is \$70 for members of the Conservancy and \$100 for non-members, which includes membership. Each participant will receive a docent manual and uniform, which includes a Conservancy hat, name tag, and polo shirt.

After completing the 7-week training, and before leading a group on your own, you will need to:

- shadow an experienced docent for at least three walks,
- be observed for one walk within three months of completing the training program and prior to leading your own walk,
- select a day, or days of the week that you are available to lead walks.

As a docent, we ask that you be available to lead a minimum 10 walks per school year, keeping in mind that the busiest times are fall and spring. In addition, you will be invited to participate in our monthly meetings which will give you an opportunity to interact with other docents, learn from guest speakers and stay abreast of lagoon and conservancy issues and events.

We hope you share our enthusiasm for the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy docent program. Please fill out the attached docent application form and return it with payment

to the Conservancy. We will only be accepting 24 new docents this fall, so apply now to ensure a spot - last year the class filled up fast.

Once we receive your completed application and payment, we will contact you regarding your confirmation in the fall docent training. Please feel free to call me at 760-436-3944 or email me at [tara@sanelijo.org](mailto:tara@sanelijo.org) if you have any questions. Thank you again for your interest. We look forward to your participation in the docent program.

Sincerely,

Tara Fuad  
Education Director