



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Anna-Marie Rooney, The San Diego Foundation

619-235-2300

Anna-Marie@sdfoundation.org

Balboa Park Conservancy Launched with Lead Gift from Three Foundations

September 15, 2010 –Mayor Jerry Sanders announced Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, that three foundations -- the Legler Benbough Foundation, the Parker Foundation and the Balboa Park Trust Committee of The San Diego Foundation -- have come together with a \$120,000 lead gift to support the launch of the Balboa Park Conservancy and its operations.

Each of the institutions has a long history of involvement with issues regarding the governance of Balboa Park, beginning in 2006 when the Legler Benbough Foundation commissioned the Trust for Public Land to produce a study of management and fundraising models in other major U.S. cities with large urban parks.

The Parker Foundation and The San Diego Foundation joined the Legler Benbough Foundation to fund “The Soul of San Diego: Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent in its Second Century,” a study completed in January, 2008 that looked more deeply at the issue of governance in Balboa Park.

The three institutions continued their philanthropic partnership in support of a third study – “The Future of Balboa Park: Funding, Management and Governance” completed in December 2008.

“What an honor it is to unite with the Parker Foundation and the Balboa Park Trust Committee of The San Diego Foundation to take a leadership role in helping preserve one of San Diego’s most remarkable natural treasures,” said Pete Ellsworth, President of the Legler Benbough Foundation. “We call upon other San Diegans to join us in our mission.”

“This pledge of support,” said Bob Kelly, President and CEO of The San Diego Foundation, “is a demonstration of leadership by the Legler Benbough Foundation, the Parker Foundation and the Balboa Park Trust Committee of The San Diego Foundation in preserving the integrity and beauty of Balboa Park for generations to come.”

The Mayor announced the Balboa Park Conservancy board members, including board chair Charles Hellerich, Esq., Joye Blount, Carol Chang, Benjamin Clay, Maria Davilla, Raymond Ellis, Joyce Gattas, PhD., Vicki Granowitz, Connie Matsui Beckman, Paul Meyer and Judith Swink.

The Balboa Park Conservancy is seeking additional funding and support. For additional information, contact Charles L. Hellerick, Esq., chairman of the Balboa Park Task Force at (619) 699-2431 (chellerich@luce.com), or The San Diego Foundation at 619-235-2300.

###

About The San Diego Foundation

Founded in 1975, The San Diego Foundation is a broad-purpose community foundation helping individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goal of improving the quality of life in the greater San Diego region, now and for generations to come. For additional information, please visit the San Diego Foundation at www.sdfoundation.org.