



The Office of Councilmember **Raul A. Campillo**

Proudly serving San Diego's 7th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2021

Contact: Jared Miller-Sclar | jmillersclar@sandiego.gov | 619-236-7716

Councilmember Campillo Announces \$1.5 Million State Grant for the “Bridge for Max” alongside Sen. Atkins, LeNail Family, Task Force Colleagues

SAN DIEGO — Raul A. Campillo, District 7 Councilmember and Chair of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force, today announced that a \$1.5 Million grant from the State of California, secured by California Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, will be allocated to the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation to help fund the Bridge for Max.

The Bridge for Max is the initiative to construct a pedestrian and bicycle bridge at the San Diego River Trail Crossing in Mission Trails Regional Park where 21-year-old Max LeNail tragically drowned in January. The LeNail family’s proposal for a Bridge for Max unanimously passed the MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee and Task Force earlier this year.

“I’m thrilled to announce the Bridge for Max initiative has been accelerated by this wonderful development. Thanks to the tireless advocacy of the LeNail/Yoler family and exemplary leadership from Sen. Atkins representing us in Sacramento, we are receiving a crucial investment in a bridge that will make our Park more accessible year-round for San Diegans and tourists.” Campillo said in a statement.

Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, who represents San Diego as the 39th District State Senator, spoke at the press conference and released the following statement: “There have been many issues I’ve worked on this past year and many crises to solve for. But when it comes to issues of the heart, actions speak louder than words. That is why I am proud to announce we have allocated \$1.5 million in this year’s State Budget to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the San Diego River. This bridge not only honors the memory of Max LeNail, but it also ensures the safety of all future visitors to the Park.”

Also present at the press conference was District 1 Councilmember Joe LaCava, Ben LeNail and Laurie Yoler (the parents of Max LeNail), Jennifer Morrissey, Executive Director of the MTRP Foundation and Dorothy Leonard, Chair of the MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee.

“The state grant secured by Senate Pro Tem Atkins is another example of the collaborative effort to honor the life of Max LeNail,” said San Diego City Councilmember Joe LaCava, who also serves as a member of the MTRP Task Force. “The overwhelming community support and local leadership

shown since this tragedy will allow the Bridge for Max to serve park users as they experience Mission Trails.”

“We are eternally grateful for Councilmember Campillo’s early and passionate leadership with the Max LeNail Memorial Bridge. We are also deeply honored by Senate President Pro Tem Atkins’ sponsorship of the project. With this transformational funding, we are now well positioned to build a bridge at the San Diego River Crossing in Mission Trails Regional Park that will provide improved access and safe passage to park guests, and honor our beloved son Max” Ben LeNail and Laurie Yoler (Parents of Max LeNail.

“We at the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation are honored to steward these funds and are immensely grateful to Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins for securing the \$1.5 Million state grant. This significant funding bolsters the efforts of the LeNail family and coincides with the MTRP Foundation’s creation of a restricted fund for the project. We thank Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, City Councilmembers Campillo and LaCava, the LeNail family, as well as the MTRP Task Force, Citizens’ Advisory Committee, and community members for rallying around this priority project at Mission Trails.” -Jennifer Morrissey

A pedestrian and bicycle bridge on the San Diego River Crossing Trail has been a priority of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee and Task Force since 2008. Thank you to the Lenail family, Councilmember Raul Campillo and State Senator Toni Atkins for bringing this project closer to reality. -Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee.

About Councilmember Raul A. Campillo

Councilmember Raul A. Campillo proudly represents the Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego. District Seven includes the neighborhoods of Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, Linda Vista, Mission Valley, Serra Mesa, San Carlos, and Tierrasanta. District Seven is home to the new San Diego State University Mission Valley campus, Mission Trails Regional Park and Cowles Mountain, the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, Lake Murray, the San Diego River, and Skateworld.

###