

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

April 17, 2025

**SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL  
GREEN RIVER GOLF COURSE SEGMENT - DESIGN**

Project No. 11-023-03

Project Manager: Rodrigo Garcia

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$750,000 to augment the Conservancy's existing grants of \$3,600,000, previously authorized to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District for preparation of designs for a 1.5-mile Santa Ana River Trail segment that is adjacent to the Green River Golf Course and connects to the Orange County line in the County of Riverside.

**LOCATION:** Santa Ana River Parkway, along the Santa Ana River, Riverside County

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [November 30, 2023 Conservancy Authorization](#)

Exhibit 3: [September 28, 2017 Conservancy Authorization](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to augment the Conservancy's existing grants of three million six hundred thousand dollars (\$3,600,000), previously authorized to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District for preparation of designs for a 1.5-mile Santa Ana River Trail segment that is adjacent to the Green River Golf Course and connects to the Orange County line in the County of Riverside. This authorization remains subject to the same conditions contained in the Conservancy's November 30, 2023, and September 28, 2017 authorizations.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for recreational opportunities and trails.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize a \$750,000 grant to augment the Conservancy grants of \$3,600,000, previously authorized to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (the District) for preparation of designs for a 1.5-mile Santa Ana River Trail segment that is adjacent to the Green River Golf Course and connects to the Orange County line in the County of Riverside.

Since the 1950's, citizen groups have worked with leaders in the Santa Ana River watershed to develop a 100-mile trail running adjacent to the Santa Ana River. Their goal is to create a lively Santa Ana River Parkway connecting playgrounds, schools, ball fields, commercial centers, golf courses, equestrian facilities, and neighborhoods to natural areas with a lineal trail along the river corridor. The proposed project brings this vision one step closer to completion.

Planning for this section will be coordinated with the US Army Corps of Engineers, which is currently working on a project to increase flood storage in the Prado Basin by raising the face of the dam and constructing a series of supporting dikes. The trail will continue through the cities of Corona and Norco. Above the Prado Basin, the Santa Ana River is a wide braided channel that migrates across an active floodplain. Planning for the trail in this section is complicated because it must be balanced with natural resources protection and flood management.

This augmentation is necessary to pay for additional work that was not originally budgeted for due to the need to coordinate design review comments. Because the project footprint is in an area with fourteen separate jurisdictions, coordination of design review comments for all separate agencies has resulted in additional design costs. The additional funding will go toward the design consultant budget to address additional comments on the project design.

**Site Description:** The Green River Golf Course segment of the Santa Ana River Trail will begin where the Orange County portion of the Santa Ana River Trail ends and will continue east, adjacent to the Green River Golf Course to the Prado Dam. Near the Prado Dam, the trail will cross under Highway 71 and continue around the edge of the Prado Basin. See Exhibit 2 for more site description.

**Grant Applicant Qualifications:** The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District was created by the electorate in November 1990 and formed on January 29, 1991. The District is an independent agency governed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, which sits as

the District’s Board of Directors. The District has extensive experience with project planning and implementation, as it manages more than 44,000 acres, including 40 parks, reserves, historic and archaeological sites, and 90 miles of regional trails. The District has successfully managed several previous grant funds from the Conservancy for design and construction of the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, as described in the November 30, 2023 staff recommendation (See Exhibit 2).

**PROJECT FINANCING**

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>
Coastal Conservancy (November 30, 2023, authorization)	\$1,300,000
Coastal Conservancy (September 28, 2017, authorization)	\$2,300,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$4,350,000</b>

The anticipated source of Conservancy funding for this augmentation will come from two sources:

\$605,000 is anticipated to come from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation to the Conservancy from the General Fund for the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program (Budget Act of 2021, AB 128, amended by budget trailer bill SB 170). These funds are available for projects consistent with the purposes of the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program. The remaining \$145,000 is anticipated to come from a FY 2022/2023 appropriation to the Conservancy from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoors Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68, codified at Public Resource Code (PRC) Sections 8000-80173). Chapter 7 of Proposition 68 authorizes grants for projects consistent with the Conservancy’s Santa Ana River Conservancy Program (PRC Section 80100(a)(2)).

This project is consistent with the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program, as discussed in the “Consistency with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation” section below.

Projects utilizing funds granted under Chapter 7 of Proposition 68 must serve a disadvantaged community or the grantee must provide a 20% match (PRC section 80100(b)). Consistent with this section, this trail segment is located in close proximity to a disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged community including parts of Corona, and the proposed project will offer free recreational opportunities to local residents and visitors.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation as described in the September 28, 2017 staff recommendation (See Exhibit 3).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#):**

Consistent with **Goal 2.4 Build Trails**, the proposed project will plan 1.5 miles of the Santa Ana River Trail.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE:**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 28, 2017 findings and authorization with respect to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (See Exhibit 3). The project has not changed and there are no changed circumstances or information that would trigger the need for additional CEQA documentation.