

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
September 28, 2017

**SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
PHASE III ACCESS AND STAGING AREA CONSTRUCTION**

File No. 11-023-02  
Project Manager: Greg Gauthier

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorize disbursement of up to \$700,000 to the Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District for construction of a trail access ramp and sewer stub line for a future trailhead staging area for the Santa Ana River Trail on top of the Prado Dam auxiliary embankment, in the County of Riverside, and adopt findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Public Access

---

**EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)
  - Exhibit 2: [Access and Staging Area Map](#)
  - Exhibit 3: [Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration: Santa Ana River Trail, Riverside County](#)
  - Exhibit 4: [Project Letters](#)
- 

**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31400 *et. seq.* and Sections 31170 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) to the Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District (District) for construction of a trail access ramp and sewer stub line for a future trailhead staging area for the Santa Ana River Trail on top of the Prado Dam auxiliary embankment.

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to disbursement of funds to the District, the Conservancy's Executive Officer shall review and approve in writing:
  - a. A final work program, including a budget and schedule, and any contractors that will be retained for the project.
  - b. Written agreements for implementation of the project improvements with the Orange County Flood Control District and with the City of Corona, which provide for the construction, maintenance and the use of the improvements for the Santa Ana River Trail and which protect the public interest in the improvements
2. The District shall ensure that the project improvements are consistent with the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and guidelines governing access for persons with disabilities.
3. In implementing the project, the District shall ensure compliance with all applicable mitigation measures and monitoring and reporting requirements for the project that are identified in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration ("IS/MND") and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan ("MMRP"), attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3, or in any permits, approvals or additional environmental documentation required for the project.

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of 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, and with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California Coast.
2. The proposed project will serve greater than local needs.
3. The proposed authorization is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
4. The Conservancy has independently considered the IS/MND (attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3) adopted by the District on April 10, 2012, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (included in the attached Exhibit 3 to the staff recommendation) developed to mitigate potentially significant environmental effects, and finds that the project as designed avoids, reduces or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.”

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The recommended authorization will provide funds to Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District (District) for construction of a trail access ramp and sewer stub line for a future staging area on top of the Prado Dam auxiliary embankment for the Prado Basin to Hidden Valley Wildlife Area segment of the Santa River Trail. Both the access ramp and staging area are on Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) property and fall within the site of the Army Corps' Prado Dam Auxiliary Embankment Project (Prado Dam Project), which seeks to increase flood storage in the Prado Basin by raising the face of the dam and constructing a series of supporting embankments. OCFCD is a cooperating local agency for the Army Corps' Prado Dam Project. Construction of the Prado Dam Project will begin in the near future and the project proposed for Conservancy funding will be constructed in connection with that larger Army Corps project.

An access ramp is needed for the Santa Ana River Trail staging area, because the existing trail runs along the base of the 25-foot- tall levee from the easterly side of Prado Dam, and the future staging area will be constructed along the top of the levee. The ramp will provide access to the top of the levee. The proposed staging area would include parking for automobiles and equestrian vehicles, restrooms, a horse corral and tie-ups, drinking water, bicycle racks, a picnic shelter, benches, trash receptacles, signage and an open space park area. The restrooms, which are planned as part of this staging area, will be served by sanitary sewer lines that are maintained and owned by the City of Corona. The City needs to relocate the existing sewer lines to accommodate the Army Corps Prado Dam Project. In order to connect restrooms in the staging area to those re-aligned sewer lines, a sanitary sewer stub needs to be constructed under the access ramp before construction of the ramp occurs. That is the second objective of the proposed project.

In order to facilitate the funding for these proposed improvements related to the Santa Ana River Trail, the District will enter into a contribution agreement with OCFCD , the cooperating agency with the Army Corps, under which the District will provide funding for construction of the access ramp by the Army Corps as part of its Prado Dam Project. The District will enter into a similar contribution agreement with the City of Corona to provide funding to the City so that the City will construct the sewer stub needed for the planned staging area of the Trail at the same time it re-aligns its existing sanitary sewer line.

Planning for the trail in this section is complicated because it must be balanced with natural resource protection and flood management. Exhibit 1 shows the general location of the proposed project within Riverside County. Exhibit 2 shows the location of the access ramp and future staging area within Phase III of the Santa Ana River Trail adjacent to Prado Dam.

The District will manage and oversee the construction of the improvements which will be funded by the proposed authorization. The 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 archeological sites, and 90 miles of regional trails.

**Site Description:**

The Santa Ana River watershed drains approximately 3,200 square miles, including portions of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties. According to 2016 census data the population of Riverside County, San Bernardino County and Orange County combined is 7.7 million. Currently the state's total population is estimated to be 39.3 million; thus just less than 20 percent of all the people in the state live in these three counties.

The Santa Ana River watershed supports hundreds of species of birds, fish and amphibians, including more than a dozen protected rare or endangered species such as Least Bell's vireo, the Santa Ana Sucker, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and the Santa Ana River woollystar. The upper portion of the watershed is in the San Bernardino National Forest, and the middle section crosses the Inland Empire, through the urbanized areas of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Throughout this region, the Santa Ana River is a wide, braided channel with flood control levees protecting the urban development. In some places, the river is a mile wide.

Near the western boundary of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, the river flows into the Prado Basin. The Prado Basin is a flood control basin, habitat area and a water treatment wetland. The Orange County Water District owns 2,150 acres in the basin, which is in Riverside County. It operates a treatment wetland to reduce nitrogen levels in the river water prior to using that water for groundwater recharge downstream. Prado Dam was built at a narrow point along the river, where the river flows between the Chino Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains. Below Prado Dam, through the Santa Ana Canyon, there is a short section of relatively natural riparian corridor, with natural channel bottom and riparian vegetation. Below this section, through most of Orange County, the Santa Ana River is a concrete-encased flood control channel that leads to the coast. The mouth of the Santa Ana River is between Huntington Beach and Newport Beach and is part of the 1,000-acre Orange Coast River Park.

The project will occur within the Prado Basin to Hidden Valley Wildlife Area segment of the Santa Ana River Trail. That segment is a portion of "Reach III" of the larger Corona-Norco-Eastvale project area of the Santa Ana River Trail, which consists of 12 reaches and stretches from just downstream of State Route 71 in the west to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area in the east. The Corona-Norco-Eastvale project area encompasses the Prado Dam and surrounding flood control basin, the Corona Municipal Airport, Orange County Water District (OCWD) conservation lands, and the residential communities of the Cities of Corona, Norco, and Eastvale. A portion of Reach I, extending from the Orange County line to the downstream edge of the Prado Dam outflow channel, is being developed as a separate project by the County of Riverside in order to meet specific funding requirements.

The Santa Ana River Trail is nearly complete in Orange County and more than half finished in Riverside County with approximately 12 miles left to complete. There are approximately 8 miles of trail to finish in San Bernardino County.

The Santa Ana River Parkway will traverse the entire length of the Santa Ana River mainstem for one half mile on either side of the river. The Santa Ana River Parkway and Open Space Plan will be completed in 2017. As part of the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program the plan will address the resource and recreational goals of the Santa Ana River region including open space, trails, wildlife habitat, agricultural land protection, water quality protection, educational use, and public access.

**Project History:**

For more than 50 years, trail users and community leaders sought to complete the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway (“the Parkway”) from the crest of the San Bernardino Mountains to the coast near Huntington Beach. Portions of the Parkway were designated a National Recreation Trail in November 1976. When completed, it will be one of the longest urban recreation and river parkways in the United States. The trail will be a multi-use trail, serving pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. It will connect a completed section of the California Coastal Trail to inland communities. The trail will go from the beach, through urban areas of Orange County and Riverside County up to San Bernardino National Forest wilderness areas. The completed trail will connect three counties and 17 cities.

The completed trail will be about 100 miles long and will include 18 miles of dirt multi-use trail in the National Forest and about 82 miles of paved trail along the lower reaches of the river.

The Parkway and river trail will connect more than 50 parks, historic sites, picnic areas, education facilities, forests, wilderness areas, hiking trails, campgrounds, nature preserves, and equestrian centers along the Santa Ana River. It is being designed to serve user groups with a wide range of interests and abilities ranging from casual pedestrian and family audiences to racing cyclists, commuters, equestrians, and hikers. The trail will be designed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 1990, the Counties of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange, along with 14 cities and various agencies came together to adopt the “Plan for the Santa Ana River Trail”, which provided a road map for completing the trail along its entirety. The over-arching goal of the plan was to provide a continuous, multi-use, trail system along the entire length of the Santa Ana River Corridor. Over the next decade, efforts to complete the trail continued at different rates within each of the respective jurisdictions. Some moved forward but progress stalled in many jurisdictions due to lack of funds.

Over time, local leaders in the watershed realized that a regional approach was necessary to complete the trail. A regional approach would allow the sharing of resources and ideas and development of a common vision for the entire trail.

In May of 2005, with the support of the Wildlands Conservancy, a nonprofit organization, local elected officials and state legislators from the watershed met to explore the possibility of state support for the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway. At this initial meeting Supervisor John Tavaglione of Riverside County suggested development of a Partnership Action Plan to coordinate planning efforts and leverage funding and resources by local entities throughout the

watershed. In August of 2005, the group determined that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was the appropriate vehicle to formalize their commitment and in July of 2006, a final MOU was signed and adopted by The Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway Partnership including the counties of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and The Wildlands Conservancy.

One of the primary hurdles to completing the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway had been a lack of consistent funding for trail projects. The Conservancy approved a \$1,850,000 planning grant to Riverside County in December 2007. Since then the members of the Partnership have worked cooperatively and coordinated efforts to complete the conceptual development and trail alignments for the uncompleted segments of the Parkway. Proposition 84 included a \$45 million dollar allocation to the Coastal Conservancy for projects to “expand and improve” the Parkway.

**PROJECT FINANCING:**

Coastal Conservancy	<u>\$700,000</u>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>

Staff expects to use funds appropriated to the Conservancy in fiscal year 2016-2017 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84, Public Resources Code section 75001, *et seq.*) Chapter 5 of Proposition 84 provides for funding for the protection and restoration of rivers, their watersheds, and associated land, water and other natural resources. Public Resources Code section 75050. Chapter 5 specifically allocates funds to the Coastal Conservancy for projects that “expand and improve” the Santa Ana River Parkway and that have been developed “in consultation with local government agencies participating in the development of the Santa Ana River Parkway.” Public Resources Code section 75050(i). Proposition 84 requires that at least \$10 million of the Parkway funds be spent in each of the three counties. Funding for this project would come from the set aside for Riverside County, which is where the project is located. Consistent with Proposition 84, the proposed project will improve the Parkway by creating a trail ramp that will connect the trail to a trail staging area. The proposed project was developed in partnership with the local governments participating in the development of the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway. Finally, as discussed in the following section, the project is consistent with Chapters 4.6 and 9 of Division 21.

While there are no matching funds identified for the proposed project, significant matching funds have already been spent completing the Santa Ana River Trail. More than \$55,000,000 in private funding has matched a total of \$15,000,000 from the local governments and approximately \$8,000,000 in federal funds. It is expected that the entire Parkway will cost approximately \$118,000,000 to complete.

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

The proposed project will help implement the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway, which will become a major inland trail connecting to the California Coastal Trail. The project is consistent

with the provisions of Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31170 *et seq.* regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for recreational opportunities and trails.

Section 31173 states that the Conservancy may undertake projects and award grants to public agencies to help achieve recreational opportunities and trails. It further states that the Conservancy may undertake projects for “Public access to, enjoyment of, and enhancement of recreational and educational experience on program lands in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources and economic resources in the area.”

Section 31174(c) states that the Conservancy shall “Give priority to river-related projects that create expanded opportunities for recreation ...”. This project will complete construction of an access ramp and sewer line for a future staging area of the Santa Ana River Trail for the purpose of public access and recreation.

The project is also consistent with the provisions of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31400 *et. seq.*. Section 31409 states that the Conservancy “may award grants and provide assistance to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to establish and expand those inland trail systems that may be linked to the California Coastal Trail.” This project will expand access to the Santa Ana River inland trail system. Section 31400.1 states that the Conservancy may award grants to any public agency for public access purposes to the coast if the accessway serves more than local public need. This project will serve the recreational needs of three large counties encompassing almost 20 percent of the entire state’s population and will likely be used by visitors from other areas of the state and nation.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S), AS REVISED JUNE 25, 2015:**

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective 2F** of the Conservancy’s 2013-2018 Strategic Plan the proposed project will construct an access ramp and sewer connection for a future staging area for a regional trail and river parkway that will connect inland populations to the coast.

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

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated by the Conservancy on October 2, 2014 in the following respects:

**Required Criteria**

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy’s statutory programs and purposes:** See the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation” section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the “Project Financing” section above.

- Promotion and Implementation if state plans and policies:** By funding the construction of the staging area access ramp and sewer line for a segment of the Santa Ana River Trail, the proposed project will implement the following state plans:

*California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report* (Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Draft 2013): Goal 2, "Build Sustainable Regions that Support Healthy, Livable Communities," specific strategy to "support and invest in active transportation projects, such as walking and biking infrastructure." This project will support completion of the Santa Ana River Trail which will provide increased opportunities for active transportation and commuting by bicycle, as well as pedestrian and equestrian trail use. The trail will contribute substantially to providing sustainable and healthy lifestyle opportunities and alternative modes of transportation and recreation.

*California Recreational Trails Plan* (California State Parks, Phase I, June 2002): The Santa Ana River Trail is identified in the California Recreational Trails Plan as a state trail corridor and meets the plan's three main criteria of bring 1) a trail corridor that will be a long-distance route greater than 50 miles identified for non-motorized travel; 2) a trail corridor that links people to public and private lands that have outstanding scenic, historic, natural, educational, or recreational values; and 3) a trail corridor that connects with other trail corridors or shorter local trails, and stimulates the development of connecting trails by its location.

- Support of the public:** The Parkway project is widely supported by local organizations and elected officials, including California State Parks, the Counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino, the Wildlands Conservancy, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, the Flood Control Districts of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, the Orange County Water District. Project letters are provided in Exhibit 4.
- Location:** The proposed project is located along the Santa Ana River and will help to complete a 100-mile trail that will connect the Coastal Trail to the San Bernardino Mountains.
- Need:** As described above, there has been a vision of completing the Parkway for more than 50 years. During the last decade, significant political support and regional coordination was established with the goal of completing trail design and construction. Funding for trail construction is one of the key factors needed to complete the trail. With the funding allocated in Proposition 84, the Parkway planning and construction is progressing.
- Greater-than-local interest:** Portions of the Parkway were designated a National Recreation Trail in November 1976 linking the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The National Park Service has indicated its interest in designating the entire trail, once completed, as a National Recreation Trail. When complete, it will be one of the longest urban recreation river parkways in the United States. Just under one-fifth of all the people in the state (approximately 7.7 million people) live in the three counties served by this trail.
- Sea level rise vulnerability:** The project area is not vulnerable to sea level rise due to the projects area's distance from the coast.

#### **Additional Criteria**

- Resolution of more than one issue:** The Parkway will provide recreational, transportation and health benefits to the residents of Orange County and the Inland Empire. The trail will



provide urban populations with access to natural areas along the river, to the Coast and National Forests, and to many cultural and historical sites adjacent to the river. Trails development will be balanced with natural resource protection and flood management along the river.

10. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section, above.
13. **Readiness:** The design, engineering and permitting for the proposed project are complete and the County of Riverside is prepared to begin construction immediately.
14. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** Completion of the Parkway will advance the Conservancy’s long-held goal of increasing public access to the Coast. The proposed trail will provide bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian access to the Coast. The trail will potentially serve millions of residents within these counties. Completion of the entire trail will benefit previous Conservancy projects at the mouth of the Santa Ana River, including work at the Huntington Beach Wetlands, Orange Coast River Park, Fairview Park and Talbert Nature Preserve.
16. **Cooperation:** The Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway Partnership is a unique example of regional coordination and collaboration among the agencies and stakeholders created by a Memorandum of Understanding. The Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway Partnership was created to coordinate building and administering the trail as a regional resource and to manage and maintain the trail cooperatively across jurisdictional boundaries in perpetuity. The Partnership is comprised of elected officials from Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, cities within the watershed, and executive officers from the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and The Wildlands Conservancy.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

On April 10, 2012 the District, through its Board of Directors approved the project and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Santa Ana River Trail, based on the findings incorporated and conclusions in the Initial Study (IS). See Exhibit 3 for the IS/MND that the District adopted. The IS/MND covered the Corona-Norco-Eastvale area of Santa Ana River Trail project, which consists of 12 reaches and stretches from just downstream of State Route 71 in the west to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area in the east. The larger Corona-Norco-Eastvale project area encompasses the proposed project site, which is located in “Reach III” of the Santa Ana River Trail, between the Prado Basin and the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area. Thus, the environmental impacts of the proposed project were identified and assessed in the IS/MND. .

As a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Conservancy must independently analyze the components of the project it seeks to fund under this authorization.

The IS/MND identifies potentially significant impacts of the Project, but determines that they could be mitigated to “less than significant” levels. The potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed project and the adopted mitigation measures that reduce impacts to a less than significant level are summarized below:

**Air Quality:** Potential significant effects to air quality were analyzed in the IS/MND and found to have no impact or less than significant impact with the exception of the potential to create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people due to horse manure from equestrian use of the trail and staging areas. The mitigation measure identified to avoid significant effects is to ensure that the trail shall be maintained by the County of Riverside at least once a month to remove any horse manure that may be on the trails. The manure would be properly disposed of at approved and permitted facilities. The proposed project will prepare the location for a future staging area which would require implementation of the above mentioned mitigation measure to avoid objectionable odors.

**Biological Resources:** Potential significant effects to biological resources were analyzed in the IS/MND and found to have no impact or less than significant impact with the exception of the potential to impact special status species and wetlands. The mitigation measures identified to avoid significant effects to biological resources include the following: avoiding construction along all reaches of the trail during the bird nesting season between February 15 and September 1; surveys by a qualified biologist prior to construction to determine the presence or absence of nesting birds. If active nests are identified, consultation with CDFG and/or US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) shall occur to determine appropriate procedures and implementing mitigation if construction activities have a direct or indirect impact on nesting birds; maintenance activities avoiding tree-trimming activities during the nesting bird season between February 15 and September 1. Prior to the commencement of tree trimming activities between September 1 and February 15, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds. If active nests are identified, tree-trimming activities shall only proceed in the affected area in the presence of a qualified biologist. The proposed project is being constructed on already disturbed soils for construction of the U.S. Army Corps auxiliary embankment and does not contain trees or wetlands. Once the staging area is completed in the future the above mitigation measures would avoid significant impacts to biological resources.

**Cultural Resources:** Potential significant effects to cultural resources were analyzed in the IS/MND and found to have no impact or less than significant impact with the exception of areas with virgin earth for which mitigation and monitoring measures were identified. The project proposed for Conservancy funding is located on previously disturbed soils and will have no impact to cultural resources.

**Paleontological Resources:** Potential significant effects to paleontological resources were analyzed in the IS/MND and found to have no impact or less than significant impact with the exception of areas with virgin earth for which mitigation and monitoring measures were identified. The project proposed for Conservancy funding is located on previously disturbed soils and will have no impact to paleontological resources.

**Geology and Soils:** Potential significant effects to geology and soils were analyzed in the IS/MND and found to have no impact or less than significant impact with the exception of areas as delineated on the current Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map that lie within the Whittier segment of the Elsinore earthquake fault zone. The project proposed for Conservancy funding does not lie within the fault zone segment.

**Noise:** Potential significant effects of construction noise were identified in the IS/MND. Mitigation measures to avoid significant effects the following two measures. Construction equipment with internal combustion engines shall be equipped with mufflers, silencers, or other noise-mitigating device. Construction equipment shall not idle when within one quarter mile of residential or school uses or any other sensitive receptors.

**Hydrology and Water Quality:** Potential significant impacts to hydrology and water quality were analyzed in the IS/MND and found to have less than significant impact with the following mitigation measures: in the event that routine inspection of Prado Dam concludes that the structural integrity of the dam has been compromised, all construction activity (during the construction phase) and/or public use (during the operational phase) of affected Reaches will immediately cease and further use would be prohibited until U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and/or County of Riverside approval is given; and, during periods of heavy rains and major storm events, the water of the Prado Dam shall be routinely monitored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Should the release of excess water via the spillway to be necessary, public access to the proposed trail alignments shall be restricted to all uses until the condition of the trails can be assessed by the USACE and the County of Riverside and any necessary repairs made.

Based on this assessment the District determined that the larger Santa Ana Trail project would not have significant environmental effects with the incorporation of the identified mitigation measures.

Staff has reviewed the District's IS/MND with respect to the project proposed for Conservancy funding and concurs with the District's determination. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Conservancy find that the proposed project, with mitigation measures incorporated, avoids, reduces or mitigates any potential adverse environmental effect to less than significant and does not have the potential for a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382. Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Determination for this project.