



Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 469-5740

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Orange County Clerk Recorder
12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 101
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code

Project Title: Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration and Water Conservation Project

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH 2016041002

Lead Agency/Applicant: Orange County Water District
Contact Person: Shawn Nevill
Address: 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Phone: (714) 469-5740

Project Location: The proposed project site is Prado Basin, located behind Prado Dam in near the City of Corona in Riverside County, California. The Prado Basin study area, which includes a portion of the Santa Ana River downstream of the Prado Basin reservoir, encompasses portions of Riverside County, San Bernardino County and Orange County, California.

City: Unincorporated Riverside County, Corona

Project Description: The Orange County Water District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FR/EIS/EIR) for the Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration and Water Conservation Integrated Feasibility Study. The Prado Basin study area, which includes a portion of the Santa Ana River downstream of the Prado Basin reservoir, encompasses portions of Riverside County, San Bernardino County and Orange County, California.



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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Los Angeles District is the lead Federal Agency and the Orange County Water District (OCWD) is the lead State Agency for this study. The Final FR/EIS/EIR presented the plan formulation undertaken to develop feasible alternatives and also assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project alternatives.

The purpose of the study was to identify and evaluate alternatives that restore the ecosystem of the project area in response to degraded habitats and ecosystem processes of the SAR, its tributaries and their associated riparian areas. An additional purpose of the study was to identify and assess changes to the operation of Prado Dam to increase the effective yield of the Santa Ana River as a source of water to OCWD's diversion and infiltration facilities downstream of the dam that supply water for the OCWD service area.

The Recommended Plan is Alternative 3, which includes both an Ecosystem Restoration Plan and a Water Conservation Plan. The Ecosystem Restoration Plan includes measures to remove invasive plants in four focal areas of the proposed project area, cowbird trapping in three focal areas, plant native species in three focal areas, and restore riparian, floodplain, and in-stream habitat in the Chino Creek focal area of the project area. The proposed Water Conservation Plan includes re-operation of Prado Dam for controlled release of water from Prado Dam to increase the effective yield of water from the SAR for diversion and infiltration at OCWD's facilities located downstream of the dam, with incidental sediment removal to offset sediment accumulation from the incremental increase in water conservation operations.



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This Notice of Determination is to advise that the Orange County Water District (Lead Agency) has approved the above described project on May 19, 2021 and has made the following determination regarding the above described project:

- The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
- A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
- Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval for this project.
- A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
- Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Final Environmental Impact Report with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the general public at:

Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley CA 92708.

Principal Planner

05/20/2021

Signature

Title

Date

County Clerk: Please post for 30 days in accordance with Section 21152(c) of the California Environmental Quality Act.