



# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT CEQA MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

## SANTA ANA RIVER MAINSTEM FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT SANTIAGO CREEK COMPONENT

In compliance with section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and the County of Orange Procedures, notification is hereby given to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, interest groups and the general public, that the County of Orange shall adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Santiago Creek component of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Control Project.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:** Santiago Creek is a component of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Control Project (SARMP) and is the last authorized project yet to be constructed. The purpose of the SARMP is to provide flood risk reductions to areas susceptible to flooding within the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange. The proposed project is designed to enhance flood protection along the Santiago Creek in Santa Ana between the Interstate 5 Freeway and the Santa Ana River. This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is necessary to document and evaluate the impacts of design refinements on resource categories and to document changed conditions in the project area. The MND has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a supplement to the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the SARMP.

**LOCATION:** Santiago Creek is the largest tributary of the Santa Ana River downstream from Prado Dam. The headwaters of the creek are in the vicinity of Santiago Peak of the Santa Ana Mountains in the northern part of Orange County. The stream flows in a northwest direction for approximately 15 miles to Villa Park Road in the City of Orange, then turns southwest for about another seven miles before joining the Santa Ana River in the City of Santa Ana.

**LEAD AGENCY:** Orange County Public Works (OCPW) is the non-federal sponsor and the lead agency for compliance with CEQA, acting on behalf of the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD).

**CONTACT PERSON:** Michael Padilla [Santiago\\_Comments@usace.army.mil](mailto:Santiago_Comments@usace.army.mil)

**PUBLIC REVIEW:** The proposed MND is being circulated for public review for 60 days from **September 15, 2023** to **November 14, 2023**. The MND may be adopted by the County of Orange and become final unless written comments on its appropriateness or adequacy are received by the office listed below by 4:30 p.m. on the ending date of the public review period **November 14, 2023**. The MND and any supporting attachments are available for review during normal business hours at the offices of the OC Public Works, 601 North Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701, and available for downloading at the following website: <https://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works-Projects/Santiago-Creek/>

**PUBLIC MEETING/HEARING ON PROJECT:** The proposed project will be reviewed for approval by the Orange County Board of Supervisors sitting as the Orange County Flood Control District. Date and Time to be determined.

**DETERMINATION:** In accordance with Orange County Board of Supervisor's policies regarding implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, the USACE conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the following project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. On the basis of that study, the County of Orange hereby finds that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report because either the proposed project:

- has or creates no** significant environmental impacts requiring mitigation; or
- will not create** a significant adverse effect, because the Mitigation Measures described in the Initial Study have been added to the project.

**NOTICE:** The MND may become final unless written comments are received by the office listed above by **November 14, 2023**. If you wish to provide comments on the appropriateness or adequacy of this document, address your written comments to our finding that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment: (1) identify the environmental effect(s), why they would occur, and why they would be significant, and (2) suggest any mitigation measures which you believe would eliminate or reduce the effect to an acceptable level. Regarding item (1) above, explain the basis for your comments and submit any supporting data or references.

Dated: September 15, 2023

Signed: *Cindy Salazar*

**OC PUBLIC WORKS  
601 NORTH ROSS STREET, P.O. BOX 4048  
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701-4048**

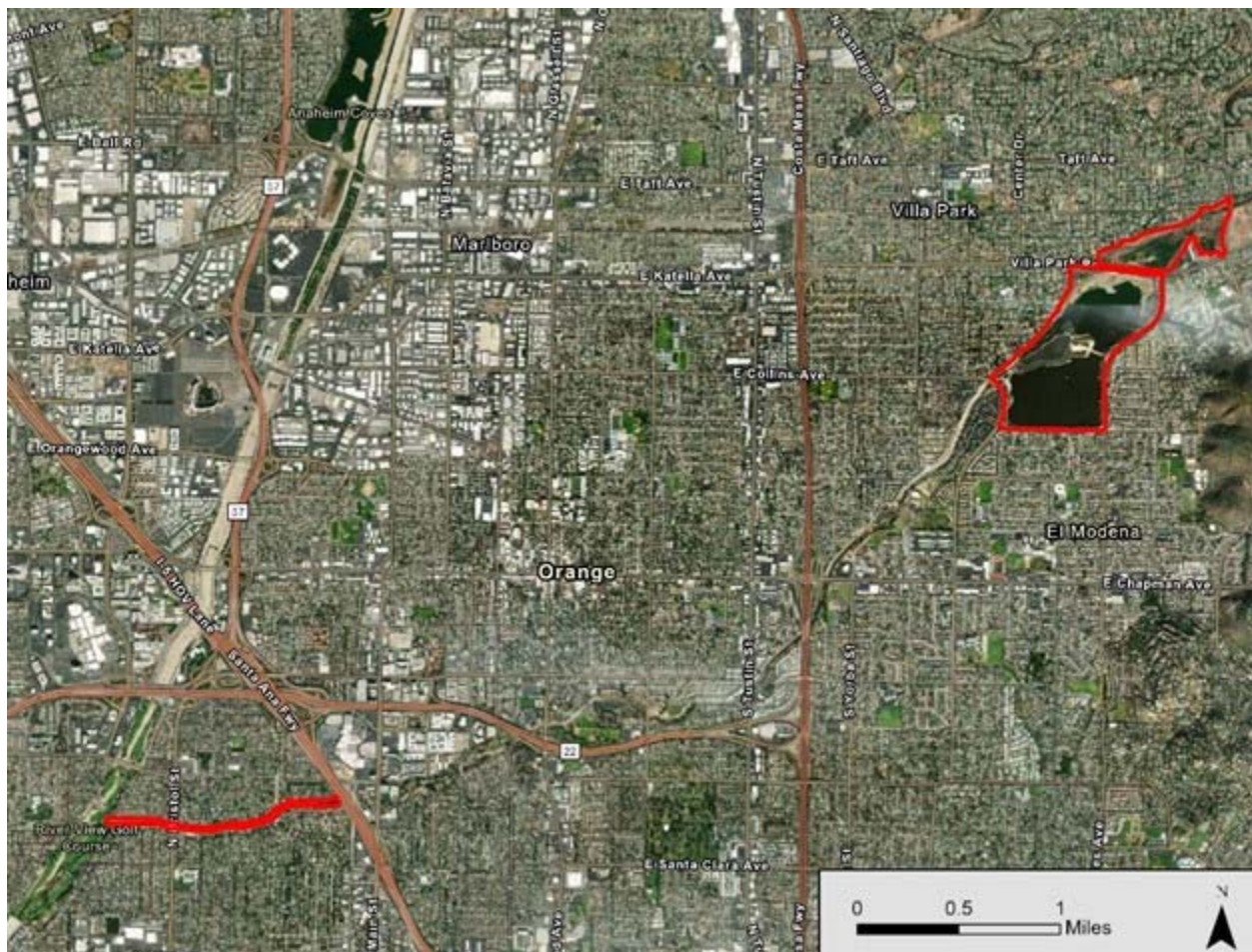


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**NOTE:** This document and supporting attachments are provided to the general public for review. This is an information document about environmental effects only. Supplemental information is on file and may be reviewed in the office listed above. The Board of Supervisors will review this document and potentially many other sources of information before considering the proposed project.

### Project Location



**OC PUBLIC WORKS  
601 NORTH ROSS STREET, P.O. BOX 4048  
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701-4048**