



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Director's Office  
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[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

*GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor*  
*CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*



September 11, 2023

Dustin McLain, Chief  
Parks and Resources  
Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District  
4600 Crestmore Road  
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509  
[dmclain@rivco.org](mailto:dmclain@rivco.org)

**California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects – Santa Ana River Riparian Restoration, Recreation and Protection Project (Request No. 21080.56-2023-035-R6)**

Dear Mr. McLain:

I am pleased to inform you as the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that I concur with the lead agency determination by the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District that the Santa Ana River Riparian Restoration, Recreation and Protection Project qualifies as a statutorily exempt restoration project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.56, subd. (e).) My concurrence as the CDFW Director is based on CDFW's independent review of the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District request for concurrence, which CDFW received on August 15, 2023. In my opinion, informed by the best available science and described in the separate CDFW concurrence, the Santa Ana River Riparian Restoration, Recreation and Protection Project meets all the qualifying criteria in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

This concurrence signifies the continued commitment by CDFW and its partners in advancing the "Cutting the Green Tape" initiative, which is a collaborative effort to increase the pace and scale of restoration projects in California in a way that protects the environment and results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery. CDFW stands ready to continue this effort in coordination with the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District.

Dustin McLain, Chief  
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Page 2

CDFW's concurrence will be posted on our website as provided by Public Resources Code section 21080.56. If you have any related questions, please contact Brad Henderson, Cutting the Green Tape Program Manager, at (530) 351-5948, or by email at [Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

ec: Valerie Termini  
Chief Deputy Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Josh Grover, Deputy Director  
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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Brad Henderson  
Environmental Program Manager  
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