

**Notice of Determination**

**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
[CEQA Submit](#)

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
South Coast Region 5  
3883 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, CA, 92123  
Contact: Jennifer Blackhall  
Email: [Jennifer.Blackhall@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Blackhall@wildlife.ca.gov)  
Phone: (858) 354-3285



Lead Agency  
Orange County Flood Control District  
601 N. Ross Street  
Santa Ana, CA, 92701  
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Email: [Cindy.Salazar@ocpw.ocgov.com](mailto:Cindy.Salazar@ocpw.ocgov.com)  
Phone: (714) 667-8870

**SUBJECT:** Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2007061076

**Project Title:** San Diego Creek Reach I Rotational Maintenance Pilot Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-ORA-15540-R5)

**Project Location (Orange):** The San Diego Creek Reach I Rotational Maintenance Pilot Project (Project) is located at San Diego Creek, in the County of Orange, State of California; Latitude 33.652712, Longitude -117.848313; Assessor's Parcel Number 445-072-35. The Reach I portion of San Diego Creek extends from the western boundary at Jamboree Road to the eastern boundary at Campus Drive.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-ORA-15540-R5, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, Orange County Department of Public Works as represented by Giles Matthews.

The Project is limited to evaluating the natural recruitment of native species following scheduled routine sediment removal events within the Reach I portion of San Diego Creek. Two pilot sites—one downstream and one upstream within the Reach—will be established on the southern banks. The sites will be cleared of vegetation then will be graded to remove excess sediment building and to lower the bench height above the mean high tide elevation of San Diego Creek. Non-native and invasive plant species will be removed 50 feet upstream and downstream of each pilot site. Vegetation will be allowed to recruit naturally after initial site modification, referred to as 'passive restoration'. If either of the pilot sites have not met the established success criteria within two growing season, they will undergo active restoration including replanting with native mulefat cuttings, willow cuttings, and a mulefat scrub seed palette. The pilot sites will be restored for 5 years.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on September 27, 2023 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings **were** made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

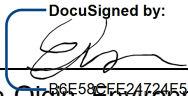
The Final EIR prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

**Notice of Determination**

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DocuSigned by:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 9/27/2023

Erinn Wilson-Ortiz, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_