

Notice of Section 401 Application Reception

File Number: 332024-16

Project Name: Santa Ana River Trail-Phase 6 Through Green River Golf Club

Received: 7/29/2024

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End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 8/27/2024

Project City: Corona and Chino Hills

Project County: Riverside and San Bernardino

Applicant Organization: Riverside County Transportation Commission

Applicant Name: Aaron Hake

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The project would construct a recreational dual-track Class I multi-use path/natural surface trail, connecting the Santa Ana River Parkway Extension (currently in final design) located west of the project site in Orange County, with the existing SART-Phase 5 in Chino Hills State Park on the east within Riverside County. Additionally, the project involves a dual-track Class I multiuse path/natural surface trail, connecting the eastern terminus of the existing SART-Phase 5 and the western terminus of the planned SART-Phase 3, near the SR-91 and SR-71 interchange in Riverside County. The dual-track trail will consist of 1) paved Class I and Class II multi-use paths for bicyclists and pedestrians and 2) decomposed granite (DG) natural surface trail for equestrians, mountain bicyclist, and hikers. The project would generally extend along the western boundary of the Green River Golf Club. A full project description can be found on Page 2-10 of the attached IS/MND. Specific project components occurring within waters of the State are discussed in the Direct Impacts section of this application form.

Project Activities: Two project alignment alternatives were considered in the preliminary design phase. Alternative 1 is the proposed project and is described in the section above and the Project Impacts section of this application form. Alternative 2 contained similar project components along a different alignment that generally followed parallel to the northern bank of the Santa Ana River. The Alternative 2 alignment was removed from consideration due to (1) increased potential for flooding due to releases from upstream Prado Dam, (2) potential extensive embankment improvements required to protect the adjacent golf course, (3) close proximity to golf course holes and impacts to golf course use, (4) additional tree removals, (5) addition of protective fencing along

bike trail, and (6) potential additional impacts to biological resources and jurisdictional aquatic features compared to Alternative 1. The proposed project improves an existing access alignment and minimizes disturbance to undeveloped open space, jurisdictional aquatic features, and areas with higher potential to contain special-status species reliant on the Santa Ana River riparian corridor. Two alternatives were considered for the Aliso Canyon Creek crossing, including an at-grade concrete low-water crossing and a prefabricated bridge (the proposed project). The paved low water crossing was a flat-bottomed concrete crossing to allow for wildlife passage and riprap erosion protection placed at the downstream end to reduce erosion potential. The low water crossing was removed from consideration to avoid potential conflicts with aquatic species passage following implementation of the project. The bridge alternative results in the minimum amount of impacts to waters of the State to achieve the project purpose.