Notice of Intent (NOI) Application Reception

File Number: 302024-10

Project Name: Santa Ana-Delhi Channel Improvement

Received: 5/02/2024

Date Posted: 5/07/2024

End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 5/28/2024

Project City: Santa Ana

Project County: Orange

Applicant Organization: Orange County Department of Public Works

Applicant Name: Giles Matthews

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The proposed channel improvements include widening the majority of the channel to 100 feet (twice the existing condition) of bottom width (inclusive of low-flow channel and banks) and in some areas downstream of the golf course up to approximately 150 feet of bottom width. The design would fully convey the 100-year design flow of 7,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) through the Proposed Project.

Project Activities: This would be accomplished by installing a floodwall along the right bank levee adjacent to the golf course. The remainder of the project would not require levees. On the right bank (looking upstream), channel side slopes would be earthen and vegetated with low-growing native plant species to allow for inspection by OCFCD. The existing left side reinforced concrete side slope, riprap buttress, and eroding earthen sections would be replaced with a vertical concrete clad retaining wall. The wall system would use a combination of engineering methods (e.g., wall types) based on location, geology, groundwater conditions, and available workspace (e.g., property constraints). The proposed channel improvements would also create expanded habitat to achieve mitigation requirements for the Approved Project detailed in EIR No. 527 (excluding State-owned land) and to provide hydraulic and habitat transition to the Upper Newport Bay ecological coastal salt marsh communities. This transition extends approximately 302 feet southwest of the Approved Project boundary parallel to the low-flow channel. The channel bottom would be comprised of freshwater marsh (upstream portion), riparian transition, and coastal salt marsh communities (lower portion) with a maintained “low-flow” channel that is comprised of cobble and some boulder sized rock (same as existing), and a soft bottom (e.g., silt and clay bottom) further downstream as in the existing condition. The widening of the channel would contribute to stable hydraulic conditions for the establishment of the habitats, a reduction in channel scour and would

reduce sediment transport to the Upper Newport Bay through reduction of the eroding bank mass that occurs in the existing condition. Further, these habitats would also trap sediment transported (from the watershed) during higher flow events and from tidal exchange where tidally influenced.