

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Buster

SUBMITTAL DATE: May 13, 2003

SUBJECT: Position on AB 496 Santa Ana River Conservancy by Assemblyman Lou Correa

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

1. That Board support in concept the establishment of a Santa Ana River Conservancy; and
2. That the Board support, if amended, AB 496 by Assemblyman Lou Correa, and direct the Executive Office and the Board Sacramento representative to further the Board's position.

BACKGROUND:

The establishment of a conservancy for the Santa Ana River will enable disparate jurisdictions to come together and deal comprehensively with issues regarding the Santa Ana river basin.

As currently proposed AB 496 would create the Santa Ana River Conservancy (SARC) and allow it to:

- 1) Receive and spend funds from voter-approved statewide park bonds,
- 2) Receive and acquire land,
- 3) Develop green space and create recreational areas,
- 4) Restore and preserve habitat and natural resources,
- 5) Provide master plan guidance for the largest stream system in Southern California, and
- 6) Protect flood control efforts.

Article 4 for the proposed bill sets forth limitations on the powers of the conservancy. Assurances from the Assemblyman's staff indicate the proposed bill would not significantly affect the dealings of existing agencies and jurisdictions in regards to the Santa Ana River. Notwithstanding, the existing proposed language and assurances, in order to best serve the interests of our County, AB 496 should be amended to specifically address the following concerns:

- 1) SARC should not adversely impact transportation projects or future expansion or capacity improvements on freeways or roads abutting the conservancy area.
- 2) SARC should not adversely impact programs such as SAWPA, MSHCP and CETAP.
- 3) In order to insure that this bill will not negatively impact existing projects and programs, provides for adequate and equitable funding, and maintains appropriate boundaries, the SARC governing Board needs a strong presence from our county jurisdictions. Additionally, the governing Board should exclude representation from those groups that are not directly impacted by the Santa Ana River.

Consent

Department Recommendation:

Policy

Per Executive Office:



BOB BUSTER, Supervisor
First District