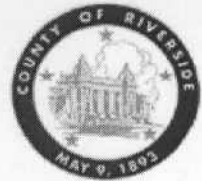




SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

905



FROM: Regional Park & Open-Space District

SUBMITTAL DATE:
10/28/04

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment
No. Parks 1002 and Approval of the Expansion of the Santa Ana River Wetlands
Mitigation Bank – District II

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board:

1. Adopt the De Minimis finding that there is no evidence that this project will have an adverse impact on wildlife resources;
2. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1002; and
3. Approve the proposed expansion of the Santa Ana River Wetlands Mitigation Bank.

BACKGROUND: The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District proposes to expand the existing 175-acre Santa Ana River Wetlands Mitigation Bank by adding approximately 115 acres. This addition will allow District Staff to expand the process of removing the invasive *Arundo donax* reed from the river bed. Areas cleared of *Arundo* will be revegetated and monitored for any additional growth of *Arundo*.

(continued on page 2)

SL/mg

450-Adoption of Mitigation Negative Declaration EA No. Parks &
Adoption of SARP Wetlands Mitigation bank.doc

Paul Frandsen
Paul Frandsen, General Manager

FINANCIAL DATA n/a	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

[Signature]

County Executive Office Signature

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: II | Agenda Number:

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

13.2

Departmental Concurrence

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1002 and Approval of the Expansion of the Santa Ana River Wetlands Mitigation Bank – District II

The proposed expansion of the mitigation bank will allow for the eventual sale of mitigation credits. These credits, currently valued at \$45,000+ will become a major source of revenue to recover the *Arundo donax* removal and maintenance operating costs.

The analysis and findings contained in the attached Initial Study for Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1002 support the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The availability of Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1002 for public review was advertised in the Press-Enterprise. A Notice of Intent to issue a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a copy of Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1002 were mailed to a number of agencies and to neighbors of the project area. The public review period extended from September 6, 2004 through October 6, 2004.

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District received no comments on the Environmental Assessment.

The Environmental Assessment identified two issues that require mitigation. One is potential occupation of the site by the least Bell's vireo. No *Arundo* removal will be done during the nesting season, and bird surveys, which are an integral part of the overall Mitigation Bank, will continue and guide *Arundo* removal. Secondly, river runoff may slightly increase due to the loss of *Arundo*. This will be mitigated through the ongoing revegetation program.