

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



119B

**FROM:** General Manager-Chief Engineer

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
December 15, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Receive and File the Proposed San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Project Plan of Action

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file the attached Proposed Report.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

Attachment A provides a brief history of the San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Project (Project) and proposed actions to complete the Project planning process. The Project began in earnest with the formation of Improvement District 4-2 by local developers in 1987 and issuance of \$2.62 million in bonds to fund right of way acquisition and design in 1988. The Project was challenged by complicated and evolving regulatory permitting, including formation of the Western Riverside Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSCHCP), transportation planning and modeling issues that extended alternative development through 2005. A final Project alternative was not selected before developer funding ceased during the recession.

Continued on Page 2

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JU:bad

WARREN D. WILLIAMS  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET DISTRICT COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>				Budget Adjustment: No	
				For Fiscal Year: 15/16	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE  
BY:   
Steven C. Horn

County Executive Office Signature

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- A-30
- 4/5 Vote
- Positions Added
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 9.1 of 07/28/98 & 15.1 of 04/26/05 | District: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> | Agenda Number:

Departmental Concurrence

**BACKGROUND**  
**Summary contd.**

The District proposed to complete the alternative analyses to facilitate planning for other regional drainage and transportation projects, and conservation lands, with support from a proposed Advisory Committee.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses:**

Selection of a Project alternative would facilitate subsequent planning for critical infrastructure (drainage and associated roadways and bridges), and environmental and habitat conservation lands required to address WRMSCHP requirements. The proposed Project alternative could also be used to refine requirements of Resolution No. 2005-220 which would allow land owners in and adjacent to the floodplain to finalize development proposals based on a specific approved Project Plan.

**SUPPLEMENTAL:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Report



## RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Report

#### Project History

Improvement District 4-2 was formed in 1987, at the request of benefitting property owners, to fund the design and construction of the lower San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Project between Ramona Expressway and Railroad Canyon (Project). A total of \$2.62 million in Improvement District 4-2 Series "A" bonds were sold in 1988 to fund Project design and rights-of-way acquisition. Another \$12 million in Series "B" bonds were available, but never issued, to fund construction. From the beginning, it was apparent that regulatory permitting would be a significant hurdle for the Project. In 1993, following long and tedious negotiations, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), District, County of Riverside, City of Perris and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 1994, the proposed federal Endangered Species Act listing of San Jacinto Saltbush and three other species led to USFWS demands for a complete redesign of the Project. The USFWS position effectively nullified the 1993 MOU.

Negotiations with the USFWS continued. By 1996, it was clear that there were serious problems including USFWS demands, increasing Project costs and insufficient property values to carry the proposed \$30 million debt issuance for the revised Project. District staff met with property owners in December of that year to advise them of the situation. The property owners nominated several of their members to a Property Owners Ad Hoc Committee and asked the District to stop work on the Project while the Ad Hoc Committee developed recommendations. On July 7, 1998, Ad Hoc Committee representatives attended the Board of Supervisors meeting to request that the District Board move forward with a small portion of the Project (the improvement of the Ramona Expressway) in an effort to provide a 100-year San Jacinto River crossing and a critical flow-control feature of the larger Project. The Board of Supervisors asked the District to prepare a report and, on July 28, 1998 (Item 9.1), the Board opted to appoint Supervisors Mullen and Venable to an Ad Hoc Committee that could meet with the property owners and discuss possible alternatives. The Ramona Expressway proposal was eventually abandoned.

The property owner Ad Hoc Committee, District, City and County staff continued to work with the regulatory agencies and other parties to develop a viable Project. Key milestones included adoption of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan in 2003 which set forth mitigation, conservation and linkage criteria for the Project, and adoption of Resolution 2005-220 on April 26, 2005 (Item 15.1) identifying interim development criteria for land development proposals located in the lower San Jacinto River floodplain.

The Resolution's interim development criteria enveloped several Project alternatives that were under consideration at the time. The Resolution set forth certain policies and procedures that allow land owners within and adjacent to the lower San Jacinto River floodplain to move forward with entitlements in advance of the final development and permitting of the proposed Project as described in Volume 1, Section 7 of the Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The policies and procedures ensure public health and safety, habitat and conservation, and traffic circulation goals are achieved while also allowing development proposals to proceed in advance of completion of the Project.

It was expected that ongoing development of a preferred Project alternative would continue with ongoing funding support from local developers and that a final Project alternative would be selected in a reasonable time. The recession of 2007, however, put a stop to developer funding and subsequent work on the Project. Improvement District 4-2 Series "A" bonds were retired in 2008.

Next Steps

On June 17, 2015, Supervisor Ashley called a meeting with remaining members of the property owner group and other interested parties to discuss the current status and future of the Project. As a result of that meeting, and given changes in property ownership, environmental regulatory requirements and various regional planning efforts, District staff will complete planning for the Project. The District proposes to form a Lower San Jacinto River Advisory Committee (Committee), as proposed below, once a consultant team has been selected and is under contract.

The Committee will assist the District with development of a stormwater management plan for the Project. The Committee is not a decision making body; it shall review, comment on and provide recommendations regarding the Lower San Jacinto River Project goals and conceptual alternatives. The Committee will serve as a sounding board at key Project milestones and will disband upon selection of a preferred alternative for the Project plan. Members have been selected to represent a range of interests in the Project area.

The Committee will:

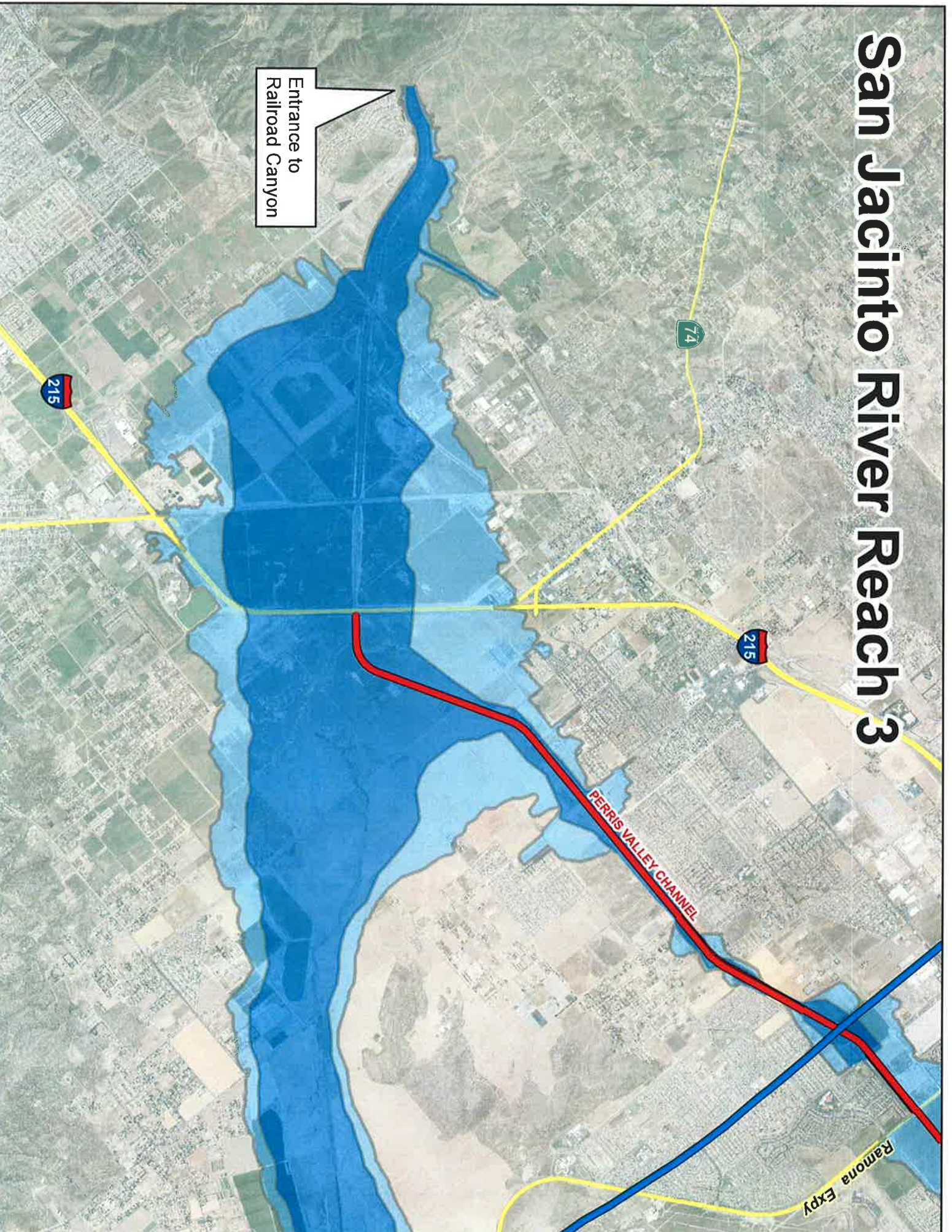
1. Articulate desired future outcomes of the Project from stakeholder perspectives;
2. Help formulate Project alternatives;
3. Assist in the selection of a "preferred alternative" for the Project;
4. Exchange information and ideas with the Project team and other stakeholders; and
5. Disseminate information about the Project to their membership and peers;

The proposed membership of the Committee is as follows:

SAC Chair	General Manager-Chief Engineer	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Member	Mayor or designated alternate	City of Perris
Member	Steve Hernandez	5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor's Office
Member	Agency Director or designated alternate	TLMA
Member	Executive Director or designated alternate	RCTC
Member	Executive Director or designated alternate	RCA
Member	General Manager or designated alternate	EMWD
Member	Dan Silver	Environmental Community
Member	Rain Tree Investments on behalf of Green Valley or alternate	Development Community (City of Perris)
Member	Riverpark or alternate	Development Community (Unincorporated County)



# San Jacinto River Reach 3



Entrance to  
Railroad Canyon

PERRIS VALLEY CHANNEL

Ramona Expy