

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



ITEM: 16.3
(ID # 28349)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 29, 2025

FROM : Regional Parks and Open Space District

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT: Adopt Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Reports and Approve Resolution No 2025-005 Making Findings Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 2, 2A, and 3A and Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 3B; District 2. [\$0] (Clerk to File Notice of Determination)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Directors:

1. Adopt Resolution No 2025-005 Making Findings Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 2, 2A, and 3A and Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 3B;
2. Adopt Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs for the Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 2, 2A, 3A and Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 3B; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to file the Notice of Determination with the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse within five (5) days of approval by the Board.

ACTION:Policy


Kyla R. Brown, General Manager 7/8/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On motion of Director Gutierrez, seconded by Director Medina and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: July 29, 2025
xc: Parks, Recorder, State Clearinghouse

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS:			Budget Adjustment:	NO
			For Fiscal Year:	25/26

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (District) oversees the implementation of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) in Riverside County but the development and construction of the SART relies on the coordination and cooperation of many different agencies to ensure the impacts of the project are minimized, both financially and environmentally.

On March 10, 2015, by M.O. 13.2, the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (RivCoParks) contracted with Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) to provide project management services for the completion of the Santa Ana River Trail through Riverside County. Projects currently being managed by RCTC include SART Project Phase 2, 2A, 3A and SART Project Phase 3B. This agreement was amended on September 13, 2016, by M.O. 13.1.and on January 9, 2018, by M.O. 13.4.

In addition to working with RCTC, the District signed a Betterment and Reimbursement Agreement with Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) On August 30, 2022 by M.O. 13.4, to include SART Project Phase 3B as a component of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project being completed by OCFCD and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This agreement allowed the District to reduce costs and minimize environmental impacts of a second construction project.

CEQA/NEPA Consideration

In accordance with the CEQA statutes and Guidelines, the Draft Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Santa Ana River Trail Project – 2, 2A, and 3A and Draft IS/MND for the Santa Ana River Trail Project – 3B were circulated for the minimum period of 30 days for public review and comment. The review period began on April 29, 2025, and ended on May 29, 2025. The Final (IS/MND) (SCH 2025041405) for the Santa Ana River Trail Project – 2, 2A, and 3A and Final (IS/MND) (SCH 2025041408) for the Santa Ana River Trail Project – 3B were prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Division 13, California Public Resources Code [PRC]). Based on the analysis provided in these Final IS/MNDs, RivCoParks finds that these proposed projects would not have a significant effect on the environment with mitigation incorporated. The Final IS/MNDs consider all public comments and includes text edits that clarify or expand upon discussions in the Draft IS/MNDs.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

When complete the Santa Ana River Trail will connect three Counties joining over seventeen cities. It will fulfill the requirements of and be classified by the National Park Service as part of the "Santa Ana River Trail National Recreation Trail." The trail will provide trail users with an

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alternate method of transportation to work, shopping, and recreation in the Southern California region, potentially helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thus improving the quality of life for citizens and businesses.

Additional Fiscal Information

Construction improvements of these phases of the SART are pending funding. The approval and award of construction bids by OCFCD and RCTC are contingent upon securing funding.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution No 2025-005
- Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 2, 2A, and 3A
- Notice of Determination for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 2, 2A, and 3A
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 2, 2A, 3A
- Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 3B
- Notice of Determination for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 3B
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Santa Ana River Trail Project Phase 3B



Jason Farin, Principal Policy Analyst 7/23/2025



Aaron Gettis, Chief of Deputy County Counsel 7/23/2025

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3 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-005

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5 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIVERSIDE
6 COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT MAKING FINDINGS
7 PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE
8 SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 2, 2A, 3A AND SANTA ANA RIVER
9 TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 3B

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District
12 (“DISTRICT”) is the lead agency in the development of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART)
13 through Riverside County and has grant funding available to develop the SART;

14 **WHEREAS**, the DISTRICT, Orange County Flood Control District (“FLOOD
15 DISTRICT”) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“CORPS”) entered into a Betterment
16 and Reimbursement Agreement for the Santa Ana River Trail Phase 3B Project as a part of
17 the larger Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP) dated August 30, 2022;

18 **WHEREAS**, the DISTRICT and Riverside County Transportation Commission
19 (“RCTC”), the City of Norco, and City of Corona entered into a Memorandum of
20 Understanding for Cooperative Planning and Development of the Santa Ana River Trail
21 Projects including SART Project Phase 2, 2A, 3A and SART Project Phase 3B dated
22 February 25, 2015, renewed on August 31, 2016, and again on January 9, 2018;

23 **WHEREAS**, In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act
24 (CEQA), the DISTRICT is the Lead Agency to consider and approve any and all
25 environmental documents required by CEQA for the SART PROJECT PHASE 3B and the
26 SART PROJECT PHASE 2, 2A, 2B;

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT, as lead agency, prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the SART PROJECT Phase 3B Project (SCH 2025041408) and an IS/MND for the SART PROJECT Phase 2A, 2B, 3A Project (SCH 2025041405) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Projects, both of which were released on April 29, 2025 for a 30-day public review, ending on May 29, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District ("BOARD") assembled in regular session on July 29, 2025 in the meeting room of the Board of Directors located on the 1st floor of the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, at or after 9:30 a.m., based upon the evidence and testimony presented on the matter, both written and oral, does hereby resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. Incorporation of Recitals. The above recitations constitute findings of the Board with respect to the Projects and the environmental studies and are incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. CEQA Findings

(a) Consideration of the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Statement Regarding CEQA Compliance. As the decision-making body for the DISTRICT, the BOARD has received, reviewed, and considered the information contained in the Final IS/MNDs (SCH 2025041408 and SCH 2025041405), including all comment letters and other related documents. Based on this review, the BOARD finds that, as to the potential environmental impacts within the DISTRICT's powers and authorities as a lead agency, that the IS/MNDs for the PROJECTs contains a complete objective and accurate reporting of those

1 potential impacts, and based on the while record before it finds there is no
2 substantial evidence that the PROJECTs will have a significant effect on the
3 environment, and that this determination reflects the independent judgement and
4 analysis of the DISTRICT.

5 (b) CEQA Findings on Environmental Impacts. In its role as a lead agency under
6 CEQA, the DISTRICT finds that the mitigation measures imposed on the PROJECTS are
7 sufficient to reduce all potential significant physical environmental impacts caused by the
8 construction or operation of the PROJECTs to a level of less than significant.

9 (c) Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs. The DISTRICT
10 hereby approves and adopts both Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MMRP)
11 prepared for the SART PROJECT PHASE 3B and SART PROJECT PHASE 2, 2A, 3B as
12 approved by the BOARD , which is incorporated into the written findings attached hereto
13 as Exhibit A SART PROEJCT PHASE 3B MMRP and Exhibit B SART PROJECT
14 PHASE 2, 2A, 3A MMRP and incorporated herein.

15 **SECTION 3. Approval of the Project.** As required by State CEQA Guidelines
16 section 15074 and in its role as lead agency under CEQA, the BOARD hereby approves
17 the PROJECTs.

18 **SECTION 4. Notice of Determination.** The BOARD hereby directs staff to file a
19 Notice of Determination with the Riverside County Clerk and with the Governor's Office
20 of Planning and Research within five (5) working days of the approval of the PROJECTs.

21 **SECTION 5. Custodian of Records.** The documents and materials that constitute
22 the record of proceedings on which these findings are based are located at the offices of
23 the Riverside County Park and Open-Space District located at 4600 Crestmore Road
24 Jurupa Valley, CA 92509.
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1 **SECTION 6. Execution of Resolution.** The Chair of the Board of Directors of the
2 PARK DISTRICT shall sign this Resolution and the Clerk shall attest and certify to the
3 passage and adoption thereof.
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3 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-005

4 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIVERSIDE
5 COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT MAKING FINDINGS
6 PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE
7 SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 2, 2A, 3A AND SANTA ANA RIVER
8 TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 3B

9 ROLL CALL:

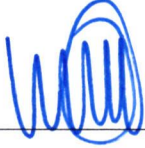
10 Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez

11 Nays: None

12 Absent: None

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14 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of
15 Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

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17 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

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19 By:  _____

20 Deputy

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23 07/29/2025 Item 16.3
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EXHIBIT A
SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 3B
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Table 2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Biological Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) determined that the Proposed Project was located within Criteria Cell 1616 of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP), which was designated to focus conservation on a variety of wetland habitats associated with the Prado Flood Control Basin and the Santa Ana River. The analysis also concluded that the Proposed Project is consistent with the conservation cell Criteria and MSHCP policies. Floristic surveys conducted for the Proposed Project determined that one California Native Plant Society California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) observed in SART Phase 3A (a planned trail segment adjacent to SART 3B) may occur. This species was identified as the paniculate tarplant (<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>) found within the California sagebrush scrub community. The CRPR ranking of this species is 4.2, indicating it as a watch list species with limited distribution that is fairly threatened in California. No additional special-status plant species were observed. Special status wildlife species surveys detected the presence of least Bell's vireo (LBV) (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>) and coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) (<i>Poliopitila californica californica</i>). The LBV is a federal and state endangered species and a WRMSHCP covered species. The CAGN is a federally-listed endangered species, state-listed species of special concern, and a WRMSHCP covered species. The proposed Project impacts to these species, which are known to be present, would be potentially significant without mitigation. The proposed impacts to nesting birds would be potentially significant because of the removal of suitable nesting habitat, noise generated by Project activities, additional lighting for work occurring at night, or off-trail trekking. The Proposed Project would result in 3.14 acres of temporary impacts and 8.21 acres of permanent impacts to the riparian/riverine vegetation community and coastal sage scrub (CSS) community areas. Wetlands or non-wetland Waters of the U.S., Waters of the State or CDFW jurisdictional waters are not located within the Project site. The Santa Ana River floodplain, in which the proposed Project is located, has been identified as an important wildlife movement corridor/riparian linkage and is part of a large area of open space within an otherwise heavily developed region. The analysis contained in the IS/MND determined that The impacts to wildlife movement are considered less than significant and no mitigation measures are required. A review of relevant documents (e.g., municipal code, ordinances, General Plan) for the County of Riverside indicate that the proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The proposed Project is located within the WRMSHCP, and complies with the conditional use of providing recreational opportunities while protecting biological resources. Based upon the analysis contained within the IS/MND, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures Bio-1 through Bio-7, impacts would be less than significant.	BIO-1 LBV, CAGN, and Nesting Birds - The District shall develop and implement a monitoring program for LBV and CAGN that entails surveys during the year prior to construction, and each year of construction. - The District shall develop and implement a monitoring program that entails surveys for bald eagles immediately prior to fall/winter construction near flowing water, and for golden eagles prior to initiating activities at Borrow Area #2 (all borrow areas). If eagles are foraging in the vicinity, the District will coordinate with the Contracting Officer Representative of the USACE and USFWS to develop appropriate avoidance measures. - Any vegetation with the potential to support CAGN and LBV shall be cleared by the District outside of the nesting season, defined as February 15 to September 16. - The District shall construct temporary sound walls/blankets prior to the LBV and CAGN nesting season (i.e., prior to February 15) along sensitive LBV and CAGN habitat adjacent to the temporary construction easement (TCE). The temporary sound wall shall be constructed of material typically used to lessen general noise impacts and at a height tall enough to account for construction equipment. - Portable sound walls/blankets will be placed by the District around demolition activities occurring on the spillway, regardless of nesting season to minimize potential noise impacts on resident CAGN.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to and during construction.
	BIO-2 Night Work Prior to any construction activities occurring at night, a lighting plan shall be developed by the District in coordination with the Project biologist or environmental monitor. The lighting plan shall serve to reduce potential impacts resulting from lighting on resident and transitory species using the wildlife corridor to the maximum extent practicable.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-3 Wildlife Education Program A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for Project personnel prior to grading to ensure workers are familiar with the species, noise restrictions, and measures that shall be implemented on the Project. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the ESA and the WRCMSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the WRCMSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the proposed Project, and the access routes to and from the proposed Project Area boundaries within which the proposed Project activities must be accomplished.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during construction for any new crews or personnel.
	BIO-4 Biological Monitoring During Construction • Prior to construction activities, a District qualified biologist (or the environmental monitor) shall conduct pre-construction environmental training for construction crew members including those onboarding mid-Project. The training shall focus on required avoidance/minimization measures and conditions of regulatory agency permits and approvals (if required). The training shall also include a summary of sensitive species and habitats potentially present within and adjacent to the Project site. • The biological monitor will monitor noise regularly (twice weekly) during the nesting season (February 15–August 15). Ambient noise levels will be recorded by the District biologist prior to construction to determine ambient noise levels. During construction, noise monitoring will ensure that 1) noise does not exceed 60 A-weighted decibels (dBA) of equivalent continuous sound level (Leq) hourly where ambient noise is less than 60 dBA Leq hourly or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, within occupied CAGN and LBN habitat during the nesting season; or, (2) noise does not exceed 5 dBA Leq hourly above ambient conditions if said levels are above 60 dBA Leq hourly, or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, within occupied CAGN and LBN habitat during the nesting season. If construction noise levels within occupied adjacent habitat cannot be reduced below 60 dBA Leq hourly, or 5 dBA Leq hourly above ambient, or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, in adjacent occupied LBN or CAGN habitat during nesting season of any year, the USACE or project District will offset impacts at a 1:1 ratio per any period during the breeding season affected by such noise levels. This 1:1 ratio will be based on the acreage of occupied coastal sage scrub or riparian habitat outside the Project footprint subject to noise levels above agreed-upon thresholds during the nesting season, per the number of breeding seasons affected (e.g., one acre of coastal sage scrub habitat affected by noise in two breeding seasons will result in two [2] acres of restoration). The area affected will be determined by the periodic Project noise monitoring. The District will identify restoration areas for offsetting noise impacts in coordination with the USFWS and will maintain (continue weeding) those areas for a period of eight (8) years. • Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., mechanized clearing or rough grading) for all Project related construction activities, a District qualified biologist (or environmental monitor) shall conduct pre-construction surveys of the Project site for terrestrial special-status species. During these surveys, the biologist shall: a. Inspect the Project Area (and borrow area) for any sensitive wildlife species; b. In the event of the discovery of a non-listed, special-status ground-dwelling animal such as a burrowing owl or special-status reptile, attempts will be made to recover and relocate the animal to adjacent suitable habitat within the Project site at least 200 feet from the limits of construction activities. Burrowing owl surveys and relocations shall follow established protocols.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to and during construction activities.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	The District biologist or qualified biological monitor shall continue to monitor and survey the Project Area, borrow area, and adjacent habitats throughout construction and restoration activities for the presence of special-status species, and shall confirm that conservation measures are sufficient to avoid or minimize impacts to these listed species and designated habitat, or shall recommend additional measures as warranted.		
	BIO-5 Native Vegetation Removal - The District's contractor will minimize grading activities and leave root systems intact, to the extent practicable. - The District's construction personnel shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the temporary construction footprint, including designated borrow areas, staging areas or routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the proposed Project and will be specified in the construction plans. Highly visible barriers (such as orange construction fencing or sound walls) will be installed around all riparian and sensitive habitats adjacent to the construction footprint to designate limits of construction activities. These barriers will be maintained until the completion of all construction activities. - Vegetation removal and herbicide application required by the District for maintenance of the Project shall be conducted at the minimum amount necessary. Any vegetation removal necessary shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is defined as February 15 to September 15. - Best management practices (BMPs) by the District shall be implemented to reduce impacts to native habitats, including the following: - All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur in developed or designated non-sensitive upland areas. These areas shall implement BMPs to prevent runoff carrying toxic substances from entering the Santa Ana River and associated drainages. If a spill occurs outside of a designated area, the cleanup shall be immediate and documented. - Fire suppression equipment including shovels, water, and extinguishers shall be available onsite during the fire season (as determined by Riverside County Fire Department) and when activities may produce sparks. - To the extent feasible, the contractor shall prevent exotic weeds from establishing within the work site during construction. Construction equipment shall be cleaned of mud or other debris to the extent feasible, prior to mobilizing and before leaving the site to reduce the potential spread of invasive plants and/or seeds.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and upon project completion.
	BIO-6 Trash Removal To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the proposed Project Area shall be kept as clean of debris as possible by the District. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and operation.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-7 Revegetation The District shall restore all temporary disturbance areas, not including existing roads or operations areas, within the TCE with riparian, CSS or other native habitat as appropriate to the location. All temporarily disturbed areas shall be kept free of exotic plants for a period of eight years. If the sites have not begun to recover within five years (i.e., 50 percent of the disturbed areas are not vegetated with native plants) then the site shall be replanted or re-hydroseeded as needed. Acreage of actual disturbance will be documented and compared to acreage restored; any shortfalls shall be addressed through additional restoration as needed. The District shall offset temporary losses to occupied CAGN habitat (i.e., both native and non-native) by restoring currently degraded areas to CSS outside the TCE at a 2:1 ratio if restoration occurs after impact; or at a 1:1 ratio if restoration occurs prior to impact; or any combination thereof (i.e., if some restoration can occur prior to impact). This acreage shall be managed and kept free of exotics for eight years post-construction. Permanent impacts to occupied but non-native habitat shall follow the same guidance. The District shall offset permanent impacts to CAGN-occupied native CSS habitat at a 3:1 ratio by restoring currently degraded areas outside the TCE and managing those areas for eight years post-construction. It is anticipated that 4.4 acres of impacts to CSS shall be offset with a total of 13.2 acres restored. The District is responsible for restoring habitat in all temporary disturbance areas related to the trail, not including existing roads or operations areas, within the TCE with riparian, CSS or other native habitat as appropriate to the location. All temporarily disturbed areas will be kept free of exotic plants for a period of eight years. If the sites have not begun to recover within five years (i.e., 50 percent of the disturbed areas are not vegetated with native plants) then the site shall be replanted or re-hydroseeded as needed. Acreage of actual disturbance will be documented and compared to acreage restored; any shortfalls shall be addressed through additional restoration as needed. The District shall offset trail related permanent impacts to LBV or CAGN-occupied native habitat at a 3:1 ratio by restoring currently degraded areas outside the TCE and preserving those lands in perpetuity. This revegetated area shall be maintained, monitored and kept free of exotics (less than 10% cover). It is anticipated that 8.2 acres of impacts to occupied habitat will be offset with a total of 24.6 acres restored.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Post construction and operation.
Cultural Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.6 (Cultural Resources) indicated that one historic-period cultural resource intersects with the project site, P-33-004730 (Prado Dam) was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1991. However, it was subsequently determined ineligible (see Section 3.6 [Cultural Resources]). The Project site was also investigated for archaeological resources, although none were identified. Although the potential for identifying archaeological historical resources during project ground disturbance is low, the presence of such resources cannot be entirely discounted. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 was identified and would reduce impacts to less than significant.	CUL-1 Cultural Materials Discovered during Construction Should an archaeological deposit be encountered during Project subsurface construction activities, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet shall be redirected and a Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District environmental specialist and USACE Cultural Resources Specialist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for the treatment of impacts to the resource. If the deposit is found to be significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the CRHR), the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District shall be responsible for funding and implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include recordation of the archaeological deposit, data recovery and analysis, and public outreach regarding the scientific and cultural importance of the discovery. Upon completion of the selected mitigations, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations shall be prepared and submitted to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and USACE for review, and the final Report shall be submitted to the EIC at the University of California, Riverside.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	Precontact cultural resources may include, but are not limited to, chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, pestles, and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic cultural resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.		
Geology & Soils			
Section 3.8 (Geology and Soils) indicated that there are three geological unit contained in the Project area. One has a low to high paleontological potential, increasing with depth, while the other two have high potential. Because the proposed Project will require some soil disturbance, impacts to potential paleontological resources is considered potentially significant. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4 these impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.	Geo-1 Paleontological Monitoring & Mitigation Plan The qualified paleontologist shall develop and oversee the implementation of a Paleontological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan tailored to the Project plans that provides for paleontological monitoring of earthwork and ground-disturbing activities into undisturbed geologic units with high paleontological potential, whether at the surface or in the subsurface, to be conducted by a paleontological monitor meeting industry standards (Murphey et al. 2019).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Paleontological monitoring is required during construction, grading, and soil removal.
	Geo-2 Workers' Environmental Awareness Program The qualified paleontologist shall develop a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program training that communicates requirements and procedures for the inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction, to be delivered by the paleontological monitor to the construction crew prior to the onset of ground disturbance.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
	Geo-3 Inadvertent Discoveries In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the finds while the paleontological monitor documents the find. The designated qualified paleontologist shall assess the find. Should the qualified paleontologist assess the find as significant, the find shall be collected and curated in an accredited repository along with all necessary associated data and curation fees.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	Geo-4 Stand-Alone Paleontological Resources Awareness Training A qualified paleontologist shall develop a stand-alone paleontological resources awareness training for the District. This training shall include information on the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered in the area, an overview of the area's geologic and paleontological history, and instructions on steps to follow should park personnel or members of the public using the SART Report the discovery of a paleontological resource. The District shall ensure this training is delivered to personnel responsible for operations and maintenance activities on the SART.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
Recreation			
Section 3.17 (Recreation), the proposed Project was determined to result in adverse physical impacts on the environment but would be mitigated to less than significant levels with the mitigation measures associated with Sections 3.5 (Biological Resources), 3.6 (Cultural Resources), and 3.8 (Geology and Soils). Therefore, impacts related to recreation would be less than significant with the implementation of these mitigation measures.	Not Applicable. Mitigation measures noted above would address all impacts associated with Recreation.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable



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EXHIBIT B
SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 2, 2A, 3A
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Table 2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Biological Resources The analysis contained within Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) indicated that one special-status plant species (<i>paniculate tarplant</i> [<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>]) was present in Phase 3A. In addition, there are special-status wildlife species and include LBV and CAGN. The Project site is also part of the WRCMSHCP and is designated as Critical Habitat by the USFWS for the LBV and CAGN. There are also sensitive habitats (i.e., coastal sage scrub) that would be removed to construct the trail. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO 7 would reduce these impacts to less than significant.	BIO-1 Sound Barriers Trail construction noise levels will be restricted to below 60 decibels hourly at 100 feet from areas occupied by LBV. Portable sound barriers will be required for work occurring in occupied listed bird habitat between February 15 and August 15 (nesting bird season) to reduce noise levels to 60 decibels or below.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	BIO-2 Least Bell's Vireo Surveys & Nesting Bird Surveys One week prior to ground-disturbing activities, a minimum of three surveys will be conducted on separate days to determine Least Bell's Vireo nesting status within 300 feet of the work area; one survey conducted one day prior to activities. If LBV nesting is observed, nest monitoring will be initiated and no work will occur within 300 feet of the nest until the nest succeeds or fails, as determined by a qualified biologist. Post-construction protocol surveys for Least Bell's Vireo should be conducted a minimum of once every three years to monitor the use and nest success within conserved habitat (see Section 7.1.2 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]). Whenever possible, construction and maintenance activities should not occur during the nesting bird season (February 15-September 1). If the nesting bird season is unavoidable, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys prior to work activities to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds no earlier than seven (7) days prior to work activities. Should an active nest be observed, no ground-disturbing work shall occur within a 250-foot buffer for non-special status nesting passerine birds, or 500-foot buffer area for nesting raptors (see sections 6.1 and 7.1.2 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during operation (within conserved habitat).
	BIO-3 Wildlife Education Program A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for proposed Project personnel prior to grading to ensure workers are familiar with the species, noise restrictions, and measures that will be implemented on the Project. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and the WRCMSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the WRCMSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the proposed Project, and the access routes to and from the proposed Project area boundaries within which the proposed Project activities must be accomplished (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during construction for any new crews or personnel.
	BIO-4 Biological Monitoring During Construction A qualified biologist shall monitor construction activities for the duration of the proposed Project to ensure that practical measures are being employed to avoid incidental disturbance of habitat and species of concern outside the proposed Project footprint (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-5 Native Vegetation Removal The removal of native vegetation shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practical. Temporary impacts shall be returned to preexisting contours and revegetated with appropriate native species (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and upon project completion.
	BIO-6 Trash Removal To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the proposed Project area shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s) (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and operation.
	BIO-7 Revegetation Mitigation for impacts to riparian/riverine areas at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 4.81:1 for permanent impacts (ratio approved through agency consultation in the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]). Temporary impacts will be restored and revegetated on-site. Permanent impacts will be mitigated through restoring, and enhancing 5.82 acres at Mill Creek. Mitigation for coastal sage scrub areas at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 3:1 off-site mitigation for permanent impacts. Areas of temporary impacts will be revegetated with native species to restore the impacted area, minimize the potential for soil erosion, and to enable runoff absorption and filtration. The use of native plant species is emphasized throughout every aspect of the proposed Project's design. Native species will also be used to revegetate areas of temporary impact that currently have disturbed, non-native grass, and other non-native vegetation communities to promote native species restoration in the Prado Basin (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Post construction and operation.
Cultural Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.6 (Cultural Resources) indicated that there are three historic-period cultural resources that intersect with the project site. However, these resources would not be directly affected by the proposed Project as the proposed trail alignment avoids them entirely or they have since been demolished. The Project site was also investigated for archaeological resources, although none were identified. Although the potential for identifying archaeological historical resources during project ground disturbance is low, the presence of such resources cannot be entirely discounted. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 was identified and would reduce impacts to less than significant.	CUL-1 Cultural Materials Discovered during Construction Should an archaeological deposit be encountered during project subsurface construction activities, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet shall be redirected and a Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District environmental specialist and USACE Cultural Resources Specialist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for the treatment of impacts to the resource. If the deposit is found to be significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the CRHR), the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District shall be responsible for funding and implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include recordation of the archaeological deposit, data recovery and analysis, and public outreach regarding the scientific and cultural importance of the discovery. Upon completion of the selected mitigations, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations shall be prepared and submitted to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and USACE for review, and the final report shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside. Precontact cultural resources may include, but are not limited to, chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, pestles, and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic cultural resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Geology & Soils			
Section 3.8 (Geology and Soils) indicated that there are three geological unit contained in the Project area. One has a low to high paleontological potential, increasing with depth, while the other two have high potential. Because the proposed Project will require some soil disturbance, impacts to potential paleontological resources is considered potentially significant. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4 these impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.	Geo-1 Paleontological Monitoring & Mitigation Plan The qualified paleontologist should develop and oversee the implementation of a Paleontological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan tailored to the Project plans that provides for paleontological monitoring of earthwork and ground-disturbing activities into undisturbed geologic units with high paleontological potential, whether at the surface or in the subsurface, to be conducted by a paleontological monitor meeting industry standards (Murphey et al. 2019).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Paleontological monitoring is required during construction, grading, and soil removal.
	Geo-2 Workers' Environmental Awareness Program The qualified paleontologist should develop a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program training that communicates requirements and procedures for the inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction, to be delivered by the paleontological monitor to the construction crew prior to the onset of ground disturbance.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
	Geo-3 Inadvertent Discoveries In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the finds while the paleontological monitor documents the find. The designated qualified paleontologist shall assess the find. Should the qualified paleontologist assess the find as significant, the find shall be collected and curated in an accredited repository along with all necessary associated data and curation fees.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	Geo-4 Stand-Alone Paleontological Resources Awareness Training A qualified paleontologist should develop a stand-alone paleontological resources awareness training for the District. This training will include information on the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered in the area, an overview of the area's geologic and paleontological history, and instructions on steps to follow should park personnel or members of the public using the SART report the discovery of a paleontological resource. District should ensure this training is delivered to personnel responsible for operations and maintenance activities on the SART.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
Recreation			
Section 3.17 (Recreation), the proposed Project was determined to result in adverse physical impacts on the environment but would be mitigated to less than significant levels with the mitigation measures associated with Sections 3.5 (Biological Resources), 3.6 (Cultural Resources), and 3.8 (Geology and Soils). Therefore, impacts related to recreation would be less than significant with the implementation of these mitigation measures.	Not Applicable. Mitigation measures noted above would address all impacts associated with Recreation.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable





Lead Agency: REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
ATTN: GABY ADAME
Address: 4600 CRESTMORE ROAD
JURUPA VALLEY CA, 92509

FILED / POSTED

County of Riverside
Peter Aldana
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

E-202500702
07/31/2025 10:23 AM Fee: \$ 3018.75
Page 1 of 2

Removed: By: Deputy


Project Title

SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL (SART), SEGMENTS 2, 2A, AND 3A

Filing Type

- ☐ Environmental Impact Report
- ☒ Mitigated/Negative Declaration
- ☐ Notice of Exemption
- ☐ Other:

Notes

SCH 2025041405

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research
 U.S. Mail: Street Address:
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☐

County Clerk

County of: Riverside

Address: 4080 Lemon St

Riverside, CA 92501

From:

Public Agency: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District
 Address: 4600 Crestmore Road
 Jurupa Valley, California 92509
 Contact: Gaby Adame
 Phone: 951-955-1395

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address:

Contact:

Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025041405

Project Title: Santa Ana River Trail (SART), Segments 2, 2A, and 3A

Project Applicant: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District

Project Location (include county): Riverside

Project Description:

Installation of a 2.78-mile multi-use trails within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin in unincorporated Riverside County. This Class I asphalt/concrete bicycle path with decomposed granite pedestrian and equestrian path will include an eight-to-ten-foot bicycle path travel way with two-foot shoulders, five percent maximum slope, two percent maximum cross fall path and shoulder slopes, minimum 2 to 1 foot slope ratio for cut/fill slopes, signage and striping along the trail, implementation of drainage improvements, and application of native hydro-seed mix along graded slope areas of the new trail phases. Construction is expected to take approximately 12 months for each individual trail phase. Construction is dependent upon available funding.

This is to advise that the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District has approved the above
☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency

described project on July 29, 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project ☐ will ☒ will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ were ☐ were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan ☒ was ☐ was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations ☐ was ☒ was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings ☐ were ☒ were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District, 4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

Signature (Public Agency):

Title: Bureau Chief - Planning, Development & Interpretation

Date: July 30, 2025

Date Received for filing at OPR: July 30, 2025

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
 Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2011



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 25-233716
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable) 2025041405

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL GABYADAME@RIVCO.ORG	DATE 07/31/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING RIVERSIDE	DOCUMENT NUMBER E-202500702	

PROJECT TITLE

SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL (SART), SEGMENTS 2, 2A, AND 3A

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL GABYADAME@RIVCO.ORG	PHONE NUMBER (951) 955-1395
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 4600 CRESTMORE ROAD,	CITY JURUPA VALLEY	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 92509

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$	
☒ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$	\$2,968.75
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$	

☐ Exempt from fee
 ☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)
 ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	\$50.00
☐ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ \$3,018.75

SIGNATURE X <i>C. Sandoval</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Deputy Cassandra Sandoval
-----------------------------------	---



Peter Aldana
Riverside County
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 486-7000
www.rivcoacr.org

Receipt: 25-233716

Product	Name	Extended
FISH	CLERK FISH AND GAME FILINGS	\$3,018.75
	# Pages	2
	Document #	E-202500702
	Filing Type	2
	State Fee Prev Charged	false
	No Charge Clerk Fee	false
F&G Negative Declaration		\$2,968.75
F&G Clerk Handling Fee		\$50.00
Total		\$3,018.75
Tender (On Account)		\$3,018.75
Account#	RCRPOSD	
Account Name	RCRPOSD - RIVCO.REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT	
Balance	\$3,118.75	



Lead Agency: REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
ATTN: GABY ADAME
Address: 4600 CRESTMORE ROAD
JURUPA VALLEY CA, 92509

FILED / POSTED

County of Riverside
Peter Aldana
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

E-202500703
07/31/2025 10:40 AM Fee: \$ 3018.75
Page 1 of 2

Removed: By: Deputy



Project Title

SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL (SART), SEGMENT 3B

Filing Type

- ☐ Environmental Impact Report
- ☒ Mitigated/Negative Declaration
- ☐ Notice of Exemption
- ☐ Other:

Notes

SCH 2025041408

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research
 U.S. Mail: Street Address:
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk
 County of: Riverside
 Address: 4080 Lemon St
 Riverside, CA 92501

From:

Public Agency: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District
 Address: 4600 Crestmore Road
 Jurupa Valley, California 92509
 Contact: Gaby Adame
 Phone: 951-955-1395

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address: _____
 Contact: _____
 Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025041408

Project Title: Santa Ana River Trail (SART), Segment 3B

Project Applicant: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District

Project Location (include county): Riverside

Project Description:

Installation of a 0.66-mile multi-use trail within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin in unincorporated Riverside County. This Class I asphalt/concrete bicycle path with decomposed granite pedestrian and equestrian path will include an eight-to-ten-foot bicycle path travel way with two-foot shoulders, five percent maximum slope, two percent maximum cross fall path and shoulder slopes, minimum 2 to 1 foot slope ratio for cut/fill slopes, signage and striping along the trail, implementation of drainage improvements, and application of native hydro-seed mix along graded slope areas of the new trail phases. Construction is expected to take approximately 8 months to complete. Construction is dependent upon available funding.

This is to advise that the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District has approved the above
 (☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)

described project on July 29, 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District, 4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

Signature (Public Agency): _____ Title: Bureau Chief – Planning, Development & Interpretation

Date: July 30, 2025 Date Received for filing at OPR: July 30, 2025

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
 Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2011



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 25-233770
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable) 2025041408

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL GABYADAME@RIVCO.ORG	DATE 07/31/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING RIVERSIDE	DOCUMENT NUMBER E-202500703	

PROJECT TITLE

SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL (SART), SEGMENT 3B

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL GABYADAME@RIVCO.ORG	PHONE NUMBER (951) 955-1395
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 4600 CRESTMORE ROAD,	CITY JURUPA VALLEY	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 92509

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$	
☒ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$	\$2,968.75
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$	
☐ Exempt from fee			
☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)			
☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)			
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)			
☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	\$50.00
☐ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ \$3,018.75

SIGNATURE X <i>C. Sandoval</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Deputy Cassandra Sandoval
-----------------------------------	---



Peter Aldana
Riverside County
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 486-7000
www.rivcoacr.org

Receipt: 25-233770

Product	Name	Extended
FISH	CLERK FISH AND GAME FILINGS	\$3,018.75
	# Pages	2
	Document #	E-202500703
	Filing Type	2
	State Fee Prev Charged	false
	No Charge Clerk Fee	false
F&G Negative Declaration		\$2,968.75
F&G Clerk Handling Fee		\$50.00
Total		\$3,018.75
Tender (On Account)		\$3,018.75
Account#	RCRPOSD	
Account Name	RCRPOSD - RIVCO REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT	
Balance	\$6,137.50	

Table 2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Biological Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) determined that the Proposed Project was located within Criteria Cell 1616 of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRCMSHCP), which was designated to focus conservation on a variety of wetland habitats associated with the Prado Flood Control Basin and the Santa Ana River. The analysis also concluded that the Proposed Project is consistent with the conservation cell Criteria and MSHCP policies. Floristic surveys conducted for the Proposed Project determined that one California Native Plant Society California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) observed in SART Phase 3A (a planned trail segment adjacent to SART 3B) may occur. This species was identified as the paniculate tarplant (<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>) found within the California sagebrush scrub community. The CRPR ranking of this species is 4.2, indicating it as a watch list species with limited distribution that is fairly threatened in California. No additional special-status plant species were observed. Special status wildlife species surveys detected the presence of least Bell's vireo (LBV) (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>) and coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>). The LBV is a federal and state endangered species and a WRCMSHCP covered species. The CAGN is a federally-listed endangered species, state-listed species of special concern, and a WRCMSHCP covered species. The proposed Project impacts to these species, which are known to be present, would be potentially significant without mitigation. The proposed impacts to nesting birds would be potentially significant because of the removal of suitable nesting habitat, noise generated by Project activities, additional lighting for work occurring at night, or off-trail trekking. The Proposed Project would result in 3.14 acres of temporary impacts and 8.21 acres of permanent impacts to the riparian/riverine vegetation community and coastal sage scrub (CSS) community areas. Wetlands or non-wetland Waters of the U.S., Waters of the State or CDFW jurisdictional waters are not located within the Project site. The Santa Ana River floodplain, in which the proposed Project is located, has been identified as an important wildlife movement corridor/riparian linkage and is part of a large are of open space within an otherwise heavily developed region. The analysis contained in the IS/MND determined that The impacts to wildlife movement are considered less than significant and no mitigation measures are required. A review of relevant documents (e.g., municipal code, ordinances, General Plan) for the County of Riverside indicate that the proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The proposed Project is located within the WRMSHCP, and complies with the conditional use of providing recreational opportunities while protecting biological resources. Based upon the analysis contained within the IS/MND, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures Bio-1 through Bio-7, impacts would be less than significant.	BIO-1 LBV, CAGN, and Nesting Birds - The District shall develop and implement a monitoring program for LBV and CAGN that entails surveys during the year prior to construction, and each year of construction. - The District shall develop and implement a monitoring program that entails surveys for bald eagles immediately prior to fall/winter construction near flowing water, and for golden eagles prior to initiating activities at Borrow Area #2 (all borrow areas). If eagles are foraging in the vicinity, the District will coordinate with the Contracting Officer Representative of the USACE and USFWS to develop appropriate avoidance measures. - Any vegetation with the potential to support CAGN and LBV shall be cleared by the District outside of the nesting season, defined as February 15 to September 16. - The District shall construct temporary sound walls/blankets prior to the LBV and CAGN nesting season (i.e., prior to February 15) along sensitive LBV and CAGN habitat adjacent to the temporary construction easement (TCE). The temporary sound wall shall be constructed of material typically used to lessen general noise impacts and at a height tall enough to account for construction equipment. - Portable sound walls/blankets will be placed by the District around demolition activities occurring on the spillway, regardless of nesting season to minimize potential noise impacts on resident CAGN.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to and during construction.
	BIO-2 Night Work Prior to any construction activities occurring at night, a lighting plan shall be developed by the District in coordination with the Project biologist or environmental monitor. The lighting plan shall serve to reduce potential impacts resulting from lighting on resident and transitory species using the wildlife corridor to the maximum extent practicable.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-3 Wildlife Education Program A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for Project personnel prior to grading to ensure workers are familiar with the species, noise restrictions, and measures that shall be implemented on the Project. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the ESA and the WRCMSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the WRCMSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the proposed Project, and the access routes to and from the proposed Project Area boundaries within which the proposed Project activities must be accomplished.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during construction for any new crews or personnel.
	BIO-4 Biological Monitoring During Construction • Prior to construction activities, a District qualified biologist (or the environmental monitor) shall conduct pre-construction environmental training for construction crew members including those onboarding mid-Project. The training shall focus on required avoidance/minimization measures and conditions of regulatory agency permits and approvals (if required). The training shall also include a summary of sensitive species and habitats potentially present within and adjacent to the Project site. • The biological monitor will monitor noise regularly (twice weekly) during the nesting season (February 15–August 15). Ambient noise levels will be recorded by the District biologist prior to construction to determine ambient noise levels. During construction, noise monitoring will ensure that 1) noise does not exceed 60 A-weighted decibels (dBA) of equivalent continuous sound level (Leq) hourly where ambient noise is less than 60 dBA Leq hourly or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, within occupied CAGN and LBV habitat during the nesting season; or, (2) noise does not exceed 5 dBA Leq hourly above ambient conditions if said levels are above 60 dBA Leq hourly, or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, within occupied CAGN and LBV habitat during the nesting season. If construction noise levels within occupied adjacent habitat cannot be reduced below 60 dBA Leq hourly, or 5 dBA Leq hourly above ambient, or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, in adjacent occupied LBV or CAGN habitat during nesting season of any year, the USACE or project District will offset impacts at a 1:1 ratio per any period during the breeding season affected by such noise levels. This 1:1 ratio will be based on the acreage of occupied coastal sage scrub or riparian habitat outside the Project footprint subject to noise levels above agreed-upon thresholds during the nesting season, per the number of breeding seasons affected (e.g., one acre of coastal sage scrub habitat affected by noise in two breeding seasons will result in two [2] acres of restoration). The area affected will be determined by the periodic Project noise monitoring. The District will identify restoration areas for offsetting noise impacts in coordination with the USFWS and will maintain (continue weeding) those areas for a period of eight (8) years. • Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., mechanized clearing or rough grading) for all Project related construction activities, a District qualified biologist (or environmental monitor) shall conduct pre-construction surveys of the Project site for terrestrial special-status species. During these surveys, the biologist shall: a. Inspect the Project Area (and borrow area) for any sensitive wildlife species; b. In the event of the discovery of a non-listed, special-status ground-dwelling animal such as a burrowing owl or special-status reptile, attempts will be made to recover and relocate the animal to adjacent suitable habitat within the Project site at least 200 feet from the limits of construction activities. Burrowing owl surveys and relocations shall follow established protocols.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to and during construction activities.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	The District biologist or qualified biological monitor shall continue to monitor and survey the Project Area, borrow area, and adjacent habitats throughout construction and restoration activities for the presence of special-status species, and shall confirm that conservation measures are sufficient to avoid or minimize impacts to these listed species and designated habitat, or shall recommend additional measures as warranted.		
	BIO-5 Native Vegetation Removal - The District's contractor will minimize grading activities and leave root systems intact, to the extent practicable. - The District's construction personnel shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the temporary construction footprint, including designated borrow areas, staging areas or routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the proposed Project and will be specified in the construction plans. Highly visible barriers (such as orange construction fencing or sound walls) will be installed around all riparian and sensitive habitats adjacent to the construction footprint to designate limits of construction activities. These barriers will be maintained until the completion of all construction activities. - Vegetation removal and herbicide application required by the District for maintenance of the Project shall be conducted at the minimum amount necessary. Any vegetation removal necessary shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is defined as February 15 to September 15. - Best management practices (BMPs)by the District shall be implemented to reduce impacts to native habitats, including the following: - All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispending of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur in developed or designated non-sensitive upland areas. These areas shall implement BMPs to prevent runoff carrying toxic substances from entering the Santa Ana River and associated drainages. If a spill occurs outside of a designated area, the cleanup shall be immediate and documented. - Fire suppression equipment including shovels, water, and extinguishers shall be available onsite during the fire season (as determined by Riverside County Fire Department) and when activities may produce sparks. - To the extent feasible, the contractor shall prevent exotic weeds from establishing within the work site during construction. Construction equipment shall be cleaned of mud or other debris to the extent feasible, prior to mobilizing and before leaving the site to reduce the potential spread of invasive plants and/or seeds.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and upon project completion.
	BIO-6 Trash Removal To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the proposed Project Area shall be kept as clean of debris as possible by the District. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and operation.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-7 Revegetation The District shall restore all temporary disturbance areas, not including existing roads or operations areas, within the TCE with riparian, CSS or other native habitat as appropriate to the location. All temporarily disturbed areas shall be kept free of exotic plants for a period of eight years. If the sites have not begun to recover within five years (i.e., 50 percent of the disturbed areas are not vegetated with native plants) then the site shall be replanted or re-hydroseeded as needed. Acreage of actual disturbance will be documented and compared to acreage restored; any shortfalls shall be addressed through additional restoration as needed. The District shall offset temporary losses to occupied CAGN habitat (i.e., both native and non- native) by restoring currently degraded areas to CSS outside the TCE at a 2:1 ratio if restoration occurs after impact; or at a 1:1 ratio if restoration occurs prior to impact; or any combination thereof (i.e., if some restoration can occur prior to impact). This acreage shall be managed and kept free of exotics for eight years post-construction. Permanent impacts to occupied but non-native habitat shall follow the same guidance. The District shall offset permanent impacts to CAGN-occupied native CSS habitat at a 3:1 ratio by restoring currently degraded areas outside the TCE and managing those areas for eight years post-construction. It is anticipated that 4.4 acres of impacts to CSS shall be offset with a total of 13.2 acres restored. The District is responsible for restoring habitat in all temporary disturbance areas related to the trail, not including existing roads or operations areas, within the TCE with riparian, CSS or other native habitat as appropriate to the location. All temporarily disturbed areas will be kept free of exotic plants for a period of eight years. If the sites have not begun to recover within five years (i.e., 50 percent of the disturbed areas are not vegetated with native plants) then the site shall be replanted or re-hydroseeded as needed. Acreage of actual disturbance will be documented and compared to acreage restored; any shortfalls shall be addressed through additional restoration as needed. The District shall offset trail related permanent impacts to LBV or CAGN-occupied native habitat at a 3:1 ratio by restoring currently degraded areas outside the TCE and preserving those lands in perpetuity. This revegetated area shall be maintained, monitored and kept free of exotics (less than 10% cover). It is anticipated that 8.2 acres of impacts to occupied habitat will be offset with a total of 24.6 acres restored.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Post construction and operation.
Cultural Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.6 (Cultural Resources) indicated that one historic-period cultural resource intersects with the project site. P-33-004730 (Prado Dam) was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1991. However, it was subsequently determined ineligible (see Section 3.6 [Cultural Resources]). The Project site was also investigated for archaeological resources, although none were identified. Although the potential for identifying archaeological historical resources during project ground disturbance is low, the presence of such resources cannot be entirely discounted. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 was identified and would reduce impacts to less than significant.	CUL-1 Cultural Materials Discovered during Construction Should an archaeological deposit be encountered during Project subsurface construction activities, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet shall be redirected and a Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District environmental specialist and USACE Cultural Resources Specialist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for the treatment of impacts to the resource. If the deposit is found to be significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the CRHR), the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District shall be responsible for funding and implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include recordation of the archaeological deposit, data recovery and analysis, and public outreach regarding the scientific and cultural importance of the discovery. Upon completion of the selected mitigations, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations shall be prepared and submitted to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and USACE for review, and the final Report shall be submitted to the EIC at the University of California, Riverside.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	Precontact cultural resources may include, but are not limited to, chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, pestles, and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic cultural resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.		
Geology & Soils			
Section 3.8 (Geology and Soils) indicated that there are three geological unit contained in the Project area. One has a low to high paleontological potential, increasing with depth, while the other two have high potential. Because the proposed Project will require some soil disturbance, impacts to potential paleontological resources is considered potentially significant. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4 these impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.	Geo-1 Paleontological Monitoring & Mitigation Plan The qualified paleontologist shall develop and oversee the implementation of a Paleontological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan tailored to the Project plans that provides for paleontological monitoring of earthwork and ground-disturbing activities into undisturbed geologic units with high paleontological potential, whether at the surface or in the subsurface, to be conducted by a paleontological monitor meeting industry standards (Murphey et al. 2019).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Paleontological monitoring is required during construction, grading, and soil removal.
	Geo-2 Workers' Environmental Awareness Program The qualified paleontologist shall develop a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program training that communicates requirements and procedures for the inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction, to be delivered by the paleontological monitor to the construction crew prior to the onset of ground disturbance.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
	Geo-3 Inadvertent Discoveries In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the finds while the paleontological monitor documents the find. The designated qualified paleontologist shall assess the find. Should the qualified paleontologist assess the find as significant, the find shall be collected and curated in an accredited repository along with all necessary associated data and curation fees.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	Geo-4 Stand-Alone Paleontological Resources Awareness Training A qualified paleontologist shall develop a stand-alone paleontological resources awareness training for the District. This training shall include information on the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered in the area, an overview of the area's geologic and paleontological history, and instructions on steps to follow should park personnel or members of the public using the SART Report the discovery of a paleontological resource. The District shall ensure this training is delivered to personnel responsible for operations and maintenance activities on the SART.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
Recreation			
Section 3.17 (Recreation), the proposed Project was determined to result in adverse physical impacts on the environment but would be mitigated to less than significant levels with the mitigation measures associated with Sections 3.5 (Biological Resources, 3.6 (Cultural Resources), and 3.8 (Geology and Soils). Therefore, impacts related to recreation would be less than significant with the implementation of these mitigation measures.	Not Applicable. Mitigation measures noted above would address all impacts associated with Recreation.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable



Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research
 U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk
 County of: Riverside
 Address: 4080 Lemon St
Riverside, CA 92501

From:

Public Agency: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District
 Address: 4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, California 92509
 Contact: Gaby Adame
 Phone: 951-955-1395

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025041408

Project Title: Santa Ana River Trail (SART), Segment 3B

Project Applicant: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District

Project Location (include county): Riverside

Project Description:

Installation of a 0.66-mile multi-use trail within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin in unincorporated Riverside County. This Class I asphalt/concrete bicycle path with decomposed granite pedestrian and equestrian path will include an eight-to-ten-foot bicycle path travel way with two-foot shoulders, five percent maximum slope, two percent maximum cross fall path and shoulder slopes, minimum 2 to 1 foot slope ratio for cut/fill slopes, signage and striping along the trail, implementation of drainage improvements, and application of native hydro-seed mix along graded slope areas of the new trail phases. Construction is expected to take approximately 8 months to complete. Construction is dependent upon available funding.

This is to advise that the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District has approved the above
 (☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)

described project on July 29, 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District, 4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

Signature (Public Agency): _____ Title: Bureau Chief – Planning, Development & Interpretation

Date: July 30, 2025 Date Received for filing at OPR: July 30, 2025

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CLERK & RECORDER

**AUTHORIZATION
TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

-TO BE FILLED IN BY SUBMITTING AGENCY-

AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: 33100-931105-537020-PK-PLN

AMOUNT: \$50.00

DATE: _____

AGENCY: REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO ISSUE A VOUCHER FOR PAYMENT OF ALL FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: One (1)

AUTHORIZED BY:

Signature: 

PRESENTED BY: MICHAEL ALFEREZ, FISCAL MANAGER

-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK-

ACCEPTED BY: _

DATE: _

RECEIPT # (S) _



**FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Santa Ana River Trail Project – 3B
State Clearinghouse Number: 2025041408

June 2025

Prepared for:

Riverside County Regional Park and Open
Space District
4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, California 92509

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
38 Technology Drive, Suite 200
Irvine, California 92618-5312
www.stantec.com

Project Number:

2042483140

1 Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

This Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Division 13, California Public Resources Code [PRC]).

1.1 PROPOSED PROJECT

The Santa Ana River Trail (SART) is a multi-use trail complex that runs alongside the Santa Ana River. When completed, it will be the longest multi-use trail in Southern California, spanning over 100 miles between San Bernardino and Orange counties. As envisioned, the trail connecting San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties would be a dual-track trail consisting of 1) paved Class I and Class II Bikeways for bicyclists and pedestrians and 2) decomposed granite (DG) surfaced riding and hiking trail for equestrians, mountain bicyclists, and hikers and would be non-motorized. The SART is currently 60 percent complete. When finished it will extend from the San Bernardino County National Forest to the Pacific Ocean at Huntington Beach where the trail ends. There are currently two gaps in the trail: from Green River in Orange County to Hidden Valley Wildlife area in Riverside County; and from Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino to the National Forest boundary line near unincorporated Mentone. The SART Phase 3B would assist in closing a portion of the Green River Trail gap. The proposed Project is intended to facilitate the expansion of the existing SART network by planning and designing 3,500 feet of a dual-track Class I multi-use path/natural surface trail that would be constructed within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin. Once constructed, the trail would be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and follow the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Highway Design Manual guidance for bicycle paths. It would also comply with County of Riverside Municipal Code requirements.

1.2 DETERMINATION

Based on the analysis provided in this Final IS/MND, the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) finds that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment with mitigation incorporated. The Final IS/MND considers all public comments and includes text edits that clarify or expand upon discussions in the Draft IS/MND.

1.3 FINAL IS/MND ORGANIZATION

This Final IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA (PRC Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15000 et seq.), and it includes the following:

- Section 1: An introduction to the Final IS/MND, including the District's findings
- Section 2: A summary of public and agency comments received on the Draft IS/MND, including details on distribution of the Draft IS/MND and acknowledgement or responses to comments received
- Section 3: Modifications to the Draft IS/MND (none of which affect the impact determinations presented in the Draft IS/MND)
 - No mitigation measures were changed and/or modified
- Section 4: Mitigation Measures



2 Public & Agency Comments

2.1 DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT IS/MND

In accordance with the CEQA statutes and Guidelines, the Draft IS/MND was circulated for the minimum period of 30 days for public review and comment. The review period began on April 29, 2025, and ended on May 29, 2025.

The Draft IS/MND was available for review at the District (4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, California 92509), and an electronic copy of the Draft IS/MND was available for review at:

<https://www.rctc.org/projects/santa-ana-river-trail-project>. In addition, the Draft IS/MND was filed with the State Clearinghouse (No. 2025041408) and the Riverside County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder. No public meeting was held for the proposed Project.

2.2 COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT IS/MND

During the public review period, responsible agencies and the public had an opportunity to provide written comments on the information contained within the Draft IS/MND. These comments are included in the record and will be considered by the District during deliberation as to whether necessary approvals should be granted for the proposed project. As stated in Section 21064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would only be approved when the District finds that “revisions in the project plans made by, or agreed to by, the applicant before the proposed negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur” and “there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.”

The District received several comment letters or emails during the review period and are included in Table 1 below.

The District acknowledges the comments included with these correspondences. It should be noted that the comments received do not affect the findings presented in the Draft IS/MND.



Table 1. Responses to Comments

First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Kathi	Kisiel	What plans will be in place to keep the homeless out? The city of Riverside has yet to keep their portion of the Santa Ana River Trail from being overrun by the drug addicted homeless. Once you leave Orange County's portion of the SART, my fear is that the homeless will move in. For whatever reason, Orange County has a handle on their homeless, while Riverside County isn't even close to getting their arms around their massive homeless population. Corona has a small homeless problem, but the city of Riverside has a massive drug addicted homeless problem that no one seems to be able to get under control. I would love to ride the SART closer to my home in Riverside, but so far I have had to travel into Orange County if I want to ride without encountering the homeless. As a woman, I can't ride the SART in Riverside if I am riding alone. That is a sad state of affairs for Riverside County.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 2.3.2 (Operations and Maintenance) of the Draft Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) 3B Project, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (RivCoParks; District) will be responsible for addressing homeless encampments potentially occurring along the trail. RivCoParks has in place a Homeless Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and a Homeless Eviction SOP, and which has been developed to address illegal encampments along the SART and within Open Space areas. As also noted in Section 2.3.2, the proposed Project will be patrolled by District Rangers three to five days per week, based on active use periods. Rangers will monitor the area for disturbance, damage, or safety issues, which may include illegal off highway vehicle use, homeless encampments, and trail hazards with a focus on environmentally sensitive areas. The County of Riverside is actively addressing homeless issues and information in this regard is available through its Housing Authority (https://harivco.org/continuum-care-division/get-help-connect-homeless-services). For more information, please contact them directly at 951-351-0700.
Larry	Dubois	My comment is to just do it. It's been too many decades of talking about it and doing surveys to waist more time still talking about it. At 62 I will be lucky to get the opportunity to ride the complete SART before I pass. Younger riders may see these surveys as progress, but us that have been making the dangerous rides through the streets of Corona and Norco for decades just to get to the trailhead see it as wasted time. Please just finish it. Sorry if my comment is not productive, but I'm getting tired of waiting. Thank you.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Sandra	Terry	We've been considering relocating out of state, but the SART extension to Redlands and now some real action on extending it west has us rethinking our plans. As dedicated cyclists, the SART is a treasured resource and we use it multiple times a week for health and recreation. I never expected any extensions to be built and it's hard to imagine leaving now that it's finally happening. Everyone involved deserves praise for getting this done.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
BRYAN	BARRAGAN	To whom it may concern, I'm an avid cyclist and runner that resides in Corona. I'm all in on any new trail that benefits a healthy lifestyle. What makes it's frustrating with these types of projects, is how they take forever to complete. When I see continuous housing development and freeway construction being completed in a reasonable time. You start to wonder if this SART project will ever be completed. I would just love to see this project move much faster and completed sooner than later. I'm just an active county resident, so take my opinion or comment for what it's worth. Have a blessed day.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Kathy	Murphy	Very excited to hear this project is underway. I've been riding the SART fir years from the beach to the end at Green River. I've ridden the part in Riverside to San Bernardino a few times. I've always wished for the parts between Green River and Hidden Valley to be connected and ride safely away from traffic. Will be excited to ride the trail from San Bernardino to Redlands someday too.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Brent	Merideth	Please do not delay building this much overdue project. Additionally, please do not delay the completion of the other phases needed to complete the gap so the Riverside portion finally meets the Orange County portion. The project looks good - time to get it done.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Rene	Visco	Its great! Go and complete the phases!!!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Miguel	Nahuat	Can't wait til it's completed	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Jason	Nichols	The long-term gain of completing the SART, 1) on traffic reduction, 2) emissions reduction, 3) significant reduction of cyclists who have to share the road with motorists on a busy stretch of roads through Riverside and Corona, 4) overall health benefits of cycling and running increased with less demand on our already taxed health care and medical systems, among other benefits will be more than worth the upfront cost of completing the trail. This trail absolutely needs to be completed. It's been on hold for far too long.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 3.18 (Transportation) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project was determined to have no impact related to vehicle miles travelled (VMT). Moreover, the construction of the trail would improve connectivity between adjacent residential uses and would encourage area and regional residents to engage in the use of active transportation (e.g., bicycle riding, walking). In Section 3.4 (Air Quality) responses "a)", "b)", and "c)" of the Draft IS/MND for the SART 3B Project, the analysis noted that the proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts and no mitigation measures were required. The proposed Project would be constructed within its own right-of-way and would not include vehicle access (except for emergency vehicles and park rangers). As noted in Section 3.12 (Land Use & Planning) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project is an active transportation facility and is anticipated to encourage bicycle riding and walking, which may result in health benefits to users.
James	Dawson	Yes, please finish the Corona portion quickly...have been waiting many, many years for this portion to be completed. Seems silly to have a bunch of disjointed sections done that can't be ridden on continuously. Thanks!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Ben	Israel	I'm a cyclist and in addition to recreation, would actually use this to commute from inland to OC sometimes.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
James	Jesser	This project really needs to get done. Find a way to make it happen.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Oscar	Garcia	As a local resident and frequent user of the Santa Ana River Trail, I'm really excited about the plans to complete this 12.8-mile section through the Prado Basin. My friends, family, and I regularly enjoy the trail—from Green River to Huntington and from Hidden Valley to San Bernardino—and this project will finally connect a gap that many of us have been hoping to see completed. Having a continuous trail without interruptions is not just a convenience—it's a matter of safety. With recent incidents involving vehicles and cyclists/pedestrians, it's reassuring to have dedicated spaces where we don't have to worry about sharing the road with cars. A fully connected trail gives us that peace of mind. As this project moves forward, I hope safety remains a top priority—particularly in parking areas. Proper lighting, routine patrols, and smart design can help deter theft, prevent break-ins, and discourage long-term loitering or unauthorized encampments that can make the trail feel unsafe. Thank you to RCTC, RivCo Parks, and everyone involved in bringing this project to life. This extension is a major win for the active and outdoor-loving community in our region.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project would be constructed within its own right-of-way and would not include vehicle access (except for emergency vehicles and park rangers). Construction of the SART is dependent on available funding and as such, is being constructed in segments. The proposed Project would construct a portion of the planned trail, thereby assisting with closing a portion of the remaining gaps. There are no parking areas proposed as part of the proposed Project. As noted in Section 2.3.2 (Operations and Maintenance), the District has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to address safety concerns, homeless encampments, trash, etc. In addition, no lighting along the trail is proposed. The areas within the Prado Dam in which the trail would be constructed contains sensitive species and as such, lighting was eliminated per the request of resource agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife) to address potential impacts.
Daniel	Gaston	If this portion of land is owned by the US Dept of Civil Engineering couldn't the army come and pave this portion? It would be orderly and super quick and under budget.	Thank you for your comment. The land in which the SART 3B project is proposed is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE has agreed to a long-term lease agreement for construction and operation of the trail but is not the entity responsible for its construction. The USACE is responsible for maintenance and operation of the Prado Dam facility and does not have any current proposals to develop public use trails within the dam area.
Mark	Griffen	I would love for the trail to be completed.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Chris	Gate	Let's just get this done!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Ronald	Newcomb	I'm fully supportive of this trail extension. I cycle this trail on a weekly basis and would love the opportunity to travel between the counties. This would also give commuters an option to being stuck in traffic in a car on the 91. The current trail bypass between the two counties takes you miles out of your way.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 2 (Project Description) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project is intended to facilitate the expansion of the existing SART network by planning and designing 3,500 feet of a dual-track Class I multi-use path/natural surface trail that would be constructed within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin. Its construction is part of the larger SART multi-county trail system and closing gaps in the system, once completed, would provide access from the San Bernardino National Forest to the Pacific Ocean in Huntington Beach, Orange County.
Joe	Perez	Please get this project done as soon as possible. Long overdue, and much anticipated by many for years.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Kyle	Mackey	I support the extension	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Richard	Fox	I am the author of the guidebook "enCYCLEpedia Southern California - the Best Easy Scenic Bike Rides" and enthusiastically support construction of this missing link of the SART, it's way overdue. It would of course also help reduce vehicle emissions and increase tourism dollars.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 3.18 (Transportation) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project was determined to have no impact related to vehicle miles travelled (VMT). Moreover, the construction of the trail would improve connectivity between adjacent residential uses and would encourage area and regional residents to engage in the use of active transportation (e.g., bicycle riding, walking).
Katarina	Landstrom	I fully support adding connecting paths past Prado Dam to connect Riverside and Orange County.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 2 (Project Description) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project is intended to facilitate the expansion of the existing SART network by planning and designing 3,500 feet of a dual-track Class I multi-use path/natural surface trail that would be constructed within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin. Its construction is part of the larger SART multi-county trail system and closing gaps in the system, once completed, would provide access from the San Bernardino National Forest to the Pacific Ocean in Huntington Beach, Orange County.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
David	Dao	Yes to the river trail extension! Would create meaningful exploration into the Riverside Area using existing infrastructure and without crowding roads.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Seth	Singer	I support this project.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Mark	McMillan	To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my support for the proposed 12.8-mile section of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) that would connect Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties through the Prado Basin. This vital project, led by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) in collaboration with RivCo Parks and other stakeholders, represents a thoughtful and forward-looking investment in Southern California's environmental, recreational, and transportation infrastructure. As an avid cyclist, I believe the completion of this segment would close a key gap in one of the most significant regional trail systems in the state. It would provide safe, scenic, and sustainable access for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, and allow residents and visitors to engage more deeply with the natural beauty of the Santa Ana River corridor. Beyond recreation, the project supports regional mobility goals by offering a viable alternative to vehicle travel—reducing traffic congestion and contributing to improved air quality. Importantly, this trail promotes equity and access to the outdoors across multiple counties, creating inclusive space for exercise, commuting, and environmental education. Providing residents with the opportunity to connect with our regions ecology and history is a way to keep the community engaged with conservation of this land. The phased approach to development also demonstrates a practical sensitivity to funding, construction, and habitat conservation concerns.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) of the Draft IS/MND, the Prado Dam area contains sensitive species and the analysis determined that impacts to biological resources would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. To that end, Mitigation Measures Bio1 through Bio 7 were prepared and incorporated and are also contained in the proposed Project's Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program (see Appendix A of the Draft IS/MND and Table 2 of the Final IS/MND) and will also be implemented as part of construction.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
		I urge decision-makers to prioritize ecological stewardship during construction and to include habitat restoration and long-term maintenance planning as part of the final environmental strategy. With careful attention to sensitive areas, this project has the potential to serve as a model of responsible outdoor infrastructure development to our counties, our state, and our beautiful country. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important initiative. Sincerely, Mark Tener McMillan Brea, CA	
Mike	Cannell	I fully support this project, this greatly enhances the quality of life for Inland Empire residents.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Lloyd	Hasegawa	It would be wonderful if the trail was connected up. It's sad that it ends where it does now. I've ridden the whole southern half many times.	Thank you for your comment. The trail is being constructed as funding becomes available. Construction of the SART 3B segment would contribute to the overall trail which, when completed, will begin at the San Bernardino National Forest and terminate at the Pacific Ocean at Huntington Beach, Orange County.
Kevin	Carlson	\$35 million for less than 13 miles? That's almost \$3 million per mile. Who's laying gold bricks under the pavement? I've seen parts of this project sitting there for years—sunbaked and untouched. Why is it dragging on like the High-Speed Rail? At this rate, I wouldn't be surprised if they budgeted for equestrian valet parking and solar-powered water troughs. Where's the accountability on these budgets? Feels like the usual rinse and repeat: big promises, bigger costs, and half the results.	Thank you for your comment. The SART project, including 3B are being constructed in segments, as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Randee	Tolentino	As an avid recreational cyclist, an OC resident, and a person who grew up in the Inland Empire, I fully support this project. I have done many bike rides along the SART and it's a shame that there's no connection to the Inland Empire. I feel this new connection has the potential to not just be good for recreational riders but for daily commuters as well. I know of many people who commute from cities like Corona or Riverside by car into the OC and having an option to take an e-bike down the trail would be something that interests them. I am a part of the Orange County Cycling Business Coalition. We are a new entity but have partnered with the City of Irvine with some projects already. If there's anything you think we can do to help, please feel free to email me.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Michael	Koval	This will be huge! The idea should be to create another lane of traffic to get from Riverside to to the Orange County beaches. Reducing traffic on the freeway and city streets, as well as creating opportunity for electric bikes and regular bikes to transport people to and from.. along with his plan should be definite Bike leads that make it safe for cyclists to travel to the Santa Ana River Trail.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Karen	Swedlove	Completing this bike path is a GREAT idea and I fully support it! Please complete this bike path as soon as possible. Thank you	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Albert	Pamplona	I hope this project pushes gets approved. It will be an alternative route in going to Orange County to avoid traffic in the 91 fwy.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Mary	Bryne	Please connect the trails! I ride SART all the time and this extension would be a huge improvement!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Janki	Patek	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - SART 3B Complete Streets:	Thank you for comment. Response to Comment on Complete Streets: Covering of the gas line will be undertaken by USACE in advance of the trail's installation and will be done in coordination with SoCalGas. RivCoParks will provide USACE with a copy of



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
		1. Section 2.3.1.3, Construction Vehicle Access, page 2-26 and Section 3.4 Air Quality, page 3-6 a. For when a Traffic Management Plan is developed, measures should be considered and taken to mitigate airborne and settling of loose construction materials that affect sensitive receptors on the roadways/ runways/ railroad tracks and access points of where these vehicles will be entering the construction area during the construction staging process. b. Construction vehicles may be accessing the trail at Auto Center Dr./ Railroad St., as this is the closest access point and SR-91 freeway interchange to this segment. c. Loose construction material and airborne particles may pose a hazard to aviation, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit and motor vehicle users, thru the accumulation of airborne and settled debris (including dust, dirt and rocks) in the vicinity of multiple modes of transportation infrastructure. d. Given this and other construction access points, the TMP may also need to additionally account to users/ owners of the rail line (Amtrak, SCRRA/ Metrolink and BNSF Railway). 2. Section 2.3.1.6, Utilities, page 2-9 a. For when the gas line is protected, it is advised that the material(s) or covering(s), whether it be the concrete slab as mentioned or other organic material (i.e. landscaping) used be resistant to vandalism and concealed to preserve aesthetic of the natural surroundings (in compliance with Section 3.2, Aesthetics). Such concealment can reduce the likelihood of utility compromise thru nefarious activities. 3. Section 2.3.2, Operations and Maintenance, page 2-27 a. While the project is designed to not create a new source of substantial light or glare and ideally not	the Caltrans's comment letter regarding this topic of concern. As noted in Section 2.3.1.3 (Construction Vehicle Access) of the Draft IS/MND, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be prepared in advance of project implementation. Per Caltrans' recommendation, the District will coordinate with the users/ owners of the rail line (Amtrak, SCRRA/ Metrolink and BNSF Railway) to determine if they have any concerns related to the airborne and settling of loose construction materials that may affect sensitive receptors on the roadways/ runways/ railroad tracks and access points of where construction vehicles will be entering the construction area during the construction staging process. It should be noted however, that the proposed Project would be subject to South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 403, Fugitive Dust, the intent of which is to reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air as a result of anthropogenic fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce or mitigate fugitive dust emissions and therefore, a new mitigation measure for inclusion within the Final IS/MND is not required. Both the USACE and wildlife agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish & Wildlife) have noted that due to the sensitivity of the Prado Dam area, the inclusion of nighttime lighting is not acceptable since sensitive species could be negatively affected. In addition, there are no areas of the trail currently planned that would include areas where natural light penetration may be inhibited due to existing topography, organic growth and manmade structures (i.e. bridges, overcrossings, undercrossing, near large, fixed object placement, etc.). No trees would be planted along the trail embankment slope. Signage proposed by the District at the trailhead and other locations will consider Caltrans' comments in this regard. It should be noted that proposed Project is being designed per the Caltrans Design Manual and will address all required requirements. See Section 3 (Modifications to the Draft IS/MND) of this Final IS/MND for proposed text changes to Section 3.18 (Transportation), subsection a) and Section 4 (List of Prepares).



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
		affect sensitive habitat, wildlife or nighttime views, lighting adds a safety element that should be considered in appropriate segments that add greater comfort and/ or safety to the user. Such locations may consider luminescence in areas where natural light penetration may be inhibited due to existing topography, organic growth and proximity to manmade structures, given this trail segment proximity to existing transportation, USACE and waterway infrastructure. 4. Section 3.18, Transportation, item a, page 3-61 a. This project for Phase 3b would take steps towards closing the gap between existing and future paved SART segments in the vicinity of Prado Dam, as well as implementation of a short segment of the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail. Nonetheless, this project segment for Phase 3b would be in proximity of a proposed trail alignment along and parallel to State Route 71 to connect Chino and Corona, as identified in their respective bicycle and pedestrian master plans, earlier SART plans from 1990 and 2004 as well as routing of the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail. 5. Section 4, List of Preparers, 4.1, Page 4-1 a. Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District – First name of the Bureau Chief (Gaby) is incorrectly spelled. <u>Equitable Access</u> If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, they must comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards upon project completion. Additionally, the project must ensure the maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the construction phase. These access considerations align with Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.	Response to Comment on Equitable Access: The current SART design does not affect Caltrans facilities. However, if this situation changes, the District will comply with the Caltrans' requirements, including pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the construction period. Response to Comment on Caltrans Encroachment Permit: The current SART design does not require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit. However, should this condition change the District will coordinate with Caltrans in advance.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
		<u>Caltrans Encroachment Permit</u> Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.	



3 Modifications to the Draft IS/MND

This section of the Final IS/MND documents changes and additions made to the Draft IS/MND to clarify or add information. This includes the additional information provided in Section 2 in response to public comments. Deleted text is marked as ~~strikeout~~, and new text is marked as underlined. Table and section references included in the following text refer to respective items from the Draft IS/MND.

3.18 Transportation (subsection 3.18 a)

The proposed Project is part of a multi-county regional trail facility extending from San Bernardino County to the Pacific Ocean in Orange County. The proposed Project would include the construction of one ~~three~~ needed trail sections of the SART (see Section 2.3, Project Characteristics). They may also contribute to future connectivity of a proposed trail alignment along and parallel to State Route 71 to connect Chino and Corona identified in their respective bicycle and pedestrian master plans, as well as earlier SART plans from 1990 and 2004, as well as routing of the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail. These SART improvements are consistent with the Riverside County General Plan and City of Corona General Plan (see Section 3.12, Land Use and Planning). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

4 List of Preparers

Gabey

4 Mitigation Measures

Table 2 presents the mitigation measures that would be incorporated as part of the proposed Project approval through the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).



Table 2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Biological Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) determined that the Proposed Project was located within Criteria Cell 1616 of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRCMSHCP), which was designated to focus conservation on a variety of wetland habitats associated with the Prado Flood Control Basin and the Santa Ana River. The analysis also concluded that the Proposed Project is consistent with the conservation cell Criteria and MSHCP policies. Floristic surveys conducted for the Proposed Project determined that one California Native Plant Society California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) observed in SART Phase 3A (a planned trail segment adjacent to SART 3B) may occur. This species was identified as the paniculate tarplant (<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>) found within the California sagebrush scrub community. The CRPR ranking of this species is 4.2, indicating it as a watch list species with limited distribution that is fairly threatened in California. No additional special-status plant species were observed. Special status wildlife species surveys detected the presence of least Bell's vireo (LBV) (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>) and coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>). The LBV is a federal and state endangered species and a WRCMSHCP covered species. The CAGN is a federally-listed endangered species, state-listed species of special concern, and a WRCMSHCP covered species. The proposed Project impacts to these species, which are known to be present, would be potentially significant without mitigation. The proposed impacts to nesting birds would be potentially significant because of the removal of suitable nesting habitat, noise generated by Project activities, additional lighting for work occurring at night, or off-trail trekking. The Proposed Project would result in 3.14 acres of temporary impacts and 8.21 acres of permanent impacts to the riparian/riverine vegetation community and coastal sage scrub (CSS) community areas. Wetlands or non-wetland Waters of the U.S., Waters of the State or CDFW jurisdictional waters are not located within the Project site. The Santa Ana River floodplain, in which the proposed Project is located, has been identified as an important wildlife movement corridor/riparian linkage and is part of a large are of open space within an otherwise heavily developed region. The analysis contained in the IS/MND determined that The impacts to wildlife movement are considered less than significant and no mitigation measures are required. A review of relevant documents (e.g., municipal code, ordinances, General Plan) for the County of Riverside indicate that the proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The proposed Project is located within the WRMSHCP, and complies with the conditional use of providing recreational opportunities while protecting biological resources. Based upon the analysis contained within the IS/MND, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures Bio-1 through Bio-7, impacts would be less than significant.	BIO-1 LBV, CAGN, and Nesting Birds - The District shall develop and implement a monitoring program for LBV and CAGN that entails surveys during the year prior to construction, and each year of construction. - The District shall develop and implement a monitoring program that entails surveys for bald eagles immediately prior to fall/winter construction near flowing water, and for golden eagles prior to initiating activities at Borrow Area #2 (all borrow areas). If eagles are foraging in the vicinity, the District will coordinate with the Contracting Officer Representative of the USACE and USFWS to develop appropriate avoidance measures. - Any vegetation with the potential to support CAGN and LBV shall be cleared by the District outside of the nesting season, defined as February 15 to September 16. - The District shall construct temporary sound walls/blankets prior to the LBV and CAGN nesting season (i.e., prior to February 15) along sensitive LBV and CAGN habitat adjacent to the temporary construction easement (TCE). The temporary sound wall shall be constructed of material typically used to lessen general noise impacts and at a height tall enough to account for construction equipment. - Portable sound walls/blankets will be placed by the District around demolition activities occurring on the spillway, regardless of nesting season to minimize potential noise impacts on resident CAGN.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to and during construction.
	BIO-2 Night Work Prior to any construction activities occurring at night, a lighting plan shall be developed by the District in coordination with the Project biologist or environmental monitor. The lighting plan shall serve to reduce potential impacts resulting from lighting on resident and transitory species using the wildlife corridor to the maximum extent practicable.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-3 Wildlife Education Program A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for Project personnel prior to grading to ensure workers are familiar with the species, noise restrictions, and measures that shall be implemented on the Project. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the ESA and the WRCMSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the WRCMSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the proposed Project, and the access routes to and from the proposed Project Area boundaries within which the proposed Project activities must be accomplished.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during construction for any new crews or personnel.
	BIO-4 Biological Monitoring During Construction • Prior to construction activities, a District qualified biologist (or the environmental monitor) shall conduct pre-construction environmental training for construction crew members including those onboarding mid-Project. The training shall focus on required avoidance/minimization measures and conditions of regulatory agency permits and approvals (if required). The training shall also include a summary of sensitive species and habitats potentially present within and adjacent to the Project site. • The biological monitor will monitor noise regularly (twice weekly) during the nesting season (February 15–August 15). Ambient noise levels will be recorded by the District biologist prior to construction to determine ambient noise levels. During construction, noise monitoring will ensure that 1) noise does not exceed 60 A-weighted decibels (dBA) of equivalent continuous sound level (Leq) hourly where ambient noise is less than 60 dBA Leq hourly or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, within occupied CAGN and LBV habitat during the nesting season; or, (2) noise does not exceed 5 dBA Leq hourly above ambient conditions if said levels are above 60 dBA Leq hourly, or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, within occupied CAGN and LBV habitat during the nesting season. If construction noise levels within occupied adjacent habitat cannot be reduced below 60 dBA Leq hourly, or 5 dBA Leq hourly above ambient, or another agreed-upon limit with the USFWS, in adjacent occupied LBV or CAGN habitat during nesting season of any year, the USACE or project District will offset impacts at a 1:1 ratio per any period during the breeding season affected by such noise levels. This 1:1 ratio will be based on the acreage of occupied coastal sage scrub or riparian habitat outside the Project footprint subject to noise levels above agreed-upon thresholds during the nesting season, per the number of breeding seasons affected (e.g., one acre of coastal sage scrub habitat affected by noise in two breeding seasons will result in two [2] acres of restoration). The area affected will be determined by the periodic Project noise monitoring. The District will identify restoration areas for offsetting noise impacts in coordination with the USFWS and will maintain (continue weeding) those areas for a period of eight (8) years. • Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., mechanized clearing or rough grading) for all Project related construction activities, a District qualified biologist (or environmental monitor) shall conduct pre-construction surveys of the Project site for terrestrial special-status species. During these surveys, the biologist shall: a. Inspect the Project Area (and borrow area) for any sensitive wildlife species; b. In the event of the discovery of a non-listed, special-status ground-dwelling animal such as a burrowing owl or special-status reptile, attempts will be made to recover and relocate the animal to adjacent suitable habitat within the Project site at least 200 feet from the limits of construction activities. Burrowing owl surveys and relocations shall follow established protocols.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to and during construction activities.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	The District biologist or qualified biological monitor shall continue to monitor and survey the Project Area, borrow area, and adjacent habitats throughout construction and restoration activities for the presence of special-status species, and shall confirm that conservation measures are sufficient to avoid or minimize impacts to these listed species and designated habitat, or shall recommend additional measures as warranted.		
	BIO-5 Native Vegetation Removal - The District's contractor will minimize grading activities and leave root systems intact, to the extent practicable. - The District's construction personnel shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the temporary construction footprint, including designated borrow areas, staging areas or routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the proposed Project and will be specified in the construction plans. Highly visible barriers (such as orange construction fencing or sound walls) will be installed around all riparian and sensitive habitats adjacent to the construction footprint to designate limits of construction activities. These barriers will be maintained until the completion of all construction activities. - Vegetation removal and herbicide application required by the District for maintenance of the Project shall be conducted at the minimum amount necessary. Any vegetation removal necessary shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is defined as February 15 to September 15. - Best management practices (BMPs)by the District shall be implemented to reduce impacts to native habitats, including the following: - All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispending of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur in developed or designated non-sensitive upland areas. These areas shall implement BMPs to prevent runoff carrying toxic substances from entering the Santa Ana River and associated drainages. If a spill occurs outside of a designated area, the cleanup shall be immediate and documented. - Fire suppression equipment including shovels, water, and extinguishers shall be available onsite during the fire season (as determined by Riverside County Fire Department) and when activities may produce sparks. - To the extent feasible, the contractor shall prevent exotic weeds from establishing within the work site during construction. Construction equipment shall be cleaned of mud or other debris to the extent feasible, prior to mobilizing and before leaving the site to reduce the potential spread of invasive plants and/or seeds.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and upon project completion.
	BIO-6 Trash Removal To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the proposed Project Area shall be kept as clean of debris as possible by the District. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and operation.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-7 Revegetation The District shall restore all temporary disturbance areas, not including existing roads or operations areas, within the TCE with riparian, CSS or other native habitat as appropriate to the location. All temporarily disturbed areas shall be kept free of exotic plants for a period of eight years. If the sites have not begun to recover within five years (i.e., 50 percent of the disturbed areas are not vegetated with native plants) then the site shall be replanted or re-hydroseeded as needed. Acreage of actual disturbance will be documented and compared to acreage restored; any shortfalls shall be addressed through additional restoration as needed. The District shall offset temporary losses to occupied CAGN habitat (i.e., both native and non- native) by restoring currently degraded areas to CSS outside the TCE at a 2:1 ratio if restoration occurs after impact; or at a 1:1 ratio if restoration occurs prior to impact; or any combination thereof (i.e., if some restoration can occur prior to impact). This acreage shall be managed and kept free of exotics for eight years post-construction. Permanent impacts to occupied but non-native habitat shall follow the same guidance. The District shall offset permanent impacts to CAGN-occupied native CSS habitat at a 3:1 ratio by restoring currently degraded areas outside the TCE and managing those areas for eight years post-construction. It is anticipated that 4.4 acres of impacts to CSS shall be offset with a total of 13.2 acres restored. The District is responsible for restoring habitat in all temporary disturbance areas related to the trail, not including existing roads or operations areas, within the TCE with riparian, CSS or other native habitat as appropriate to the location. All temporarily disturbed areas will be kept free of exotic plants for a period of eight years. If the sites have not begun to recover within five years (i.e., 50 percent of the disturbed areas are not vegetated with native plants) then the site shall be replanted or re-hydroseeded as needed. Acreage of actual disturbance will be documented and compared to acreage restored; any shortfalls shall be addressed through additional restoration as needed. The District shall offset trail related permanent impacts to LBV or CAGN-occupied native habitat at a 3:1 ratio by restoring currently degraded areas outside the TCE and preserving those lands in perpetuity. This revegetated area shall be maintained, monitored and kept free of exotics (less than 10% cover). It is anticipated that 8.2 acres of impacts to occupied habitat will be offset with a total of 24.6 acres restored.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Post construction and operation.
Cultural Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.6 (Cultural Resources) indicated that one historic-period cultural resource intersects with the project site. P-33-004730 (Prado Dam) was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1991. However, it was subsequently determined ineligible (see Section 3.6 [Cultural Resources]). The Project site was also investigated for archaeological resources, although none were identified. Although the potential for identifying archaeological historical resources during project ground disturbance is low, the presence of such resources cannot be entirely discounted. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 was identified and would reduce impacts to less than significant.	CUL-1 Cultural Materials Discovered during Construction Should an archaeological deposit be encountered during Project subsurface construction activities, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet shall be redirected and a Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District environmental specialist and USACE Cultural Resources Specialist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for the treatment of impacts to the resource. If the deposit is found to be significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the CRHR), the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District shall be responsible for funding and implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include recordation of the archaeological deposit, data recovery and analysis, and public outreach regarding the scientific and cultural importance of the discovery. Upon completion of the selected mitigations, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations shall be prepared and submitted to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and USACE for review, and the final Report shall be submitted to the EIC at the University of California, Riverside.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	Precontact cultural resources may include, but are not limited to, chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, pestles, and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic cultural resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.		
Geology & Soils			
Section 3.8 (Geology and Soils) indicated that there are three geological unit contained in the Project area. One has a low to high paleontological potential, increasing with depth, while the other two have high potential. Because the proposed Project will require some soil disturbance, impacts to potential paleontological resources is considered potentially significant. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4 these impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.	Geo-1 Paleontological Monitoring & Mitigation Plan The qualified paleontologist shall develop and oversee the implementation of a Paleontological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan tailored to the Project plans that provides for paleontological monitoring of earthwork and ground-disturbing activities into undisturbed geologic units with high paleontological potential, whether at the surface or in the subsurface, to be conducted by a paleontological monitor meeting industry standards (Murphey et al. 2019).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Paleontological monitoring is required during construction, grading, and soil removal.
	Geo-2 Workers' Environmental Awareness Program The qualified paleontologist shall develop a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program training that communicates requirements and procedures for the inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction, to be delivered by the paleontological monitor to the construction crew prior to the onset of ground disturbance.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
	Geo-3 Inadvertent Discoveries In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the finds while the paleontological monitor documents the find. The designated qualified paleontologist shall assess the find. Should the qualified paleontologist assess the find as significant, the find shall be collected and curated in an accredited repository along with all necessary associated data and curation fees.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	Geo-4 Stand-Alone Paleontological Resources Awareness Training A qualified paleontologist shall develop a stand-alone paleontological resources awareness training for the District. This training shall include information on the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered in the area, an overview of the area's geologic and paleontological history, and instructions on steps to follow should park personnel or members of the public using the SART Report the discovery of a paleontological resource. The District shall ensure this training is delivered to personnel responsible for operations and maintenance activities on the SART.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
Recreation			
Section 3.17 (Recreation), the proposed Project was determined to result in adverse physical impacts on the environment but would be mitigated to less than significant levels with the mitigation measures associated with Sections 3.5 (Biological Resources, 3.6 (Cultural Resources), and 3.8 (Geology and Soils). Therefore, impacts related to recreation would be less than significant with the implementation of these mitigation measures.	Not Applicable. Mitigation measures noted above would address all impacts associated with Recreation.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable



Table 2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Biological Resources			
The analysis contained within Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) indicated that one special-status plant species (<i>paniculate tarplant [Deinandra paniculata]</i>) was present in Phase 3A. In addition, there are special-status wildlife species and include LBV and CAGN. The Project site is also part of the WRCMSHCP and is designated as Critical Habitat by the USFWS for the LBV and CAGN. There are also sensitive habitats (i.e., coastal sage scrub) that would be removed to construct the trail. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO 7 would reduce these impacts to less than significant.	BIO-1 Sound Barriers Trail construction noise levels will be restricted to below 60 decibels hourly at 100 feet from areas occupied by LBV. Portable sound barriers will be required for work occurring in occupied listed bird habitat between February 15 and August 15 (nesting bird season) to reduce noise levels to 60 decibels or below.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	BIO-2 Least Bell's Vireo Surveys & Nesting Bird Surveys One week prior to ground-disturbing activities, a minimum of three surveys will be conducted on separate days to determine Least Bell's Vireo nesting status within 300 feet of the work area; one survey conducted one day prior to activities. If LBV nesting is observed, nest monitoring will be initiated and no work will occur within 300 feet of the nest until the nest succeeds or fails, as determined by a qualified biologist. Post-construction protocol surveys for Least Bell's Vireo should be conducted a minimum of once every three years to monitor the use and nest success within conserved habitat (see Section 7.1.2 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]). Whenever possible, construction and maintenance activities should not occur during the nesting bird season (February 15-September 1). If the nesting bird season is unavoidable, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys prior to work activities to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds no earlier than seven (7) days prior to work activities. Should an active nest be observed, no ground-disturbing work shall occur within a 250-foot buffer for non-special status nesting passerine birds, or 500-foot buffer area for nesting raptors (see sections 6.1 and 7.1.2 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during operation (within conserved habitat).
	BIO-3 Wildlife Education Program A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for proposed Project personnel prior to grading to ensure workers are familiar with the species, noise restrictions, and measures that will be implemented on the Project. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and the WRCMSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the WRCMSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the proposed Project, and the access routes to and from the proposed Project area boundaries within which the proposed Project activities must be accomplished (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during construction for any new crews or personnel.
	BIO-4 Biological Monitoring During Construction A qualified biologist shall monitor construction activities for the duration of the proposed Project to ensure that practical measures are being employed to avoid incidental disturbance of habitat and species of concern outside the proposed Project footprint (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-5 Native Vegetation Removal The removal of native vegetation shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practical. Temporary impacts shall be returned to preexisting contours and revegetated with appropriate native species (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and upon project completion.
	BIO-6 Trash Removal To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the proposed Project area shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s) (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and operation.
	BIO-7 Revegetation Mitigation for impacts to riparian/riverine areas at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 4.81:1 for permanent impacts (ratio approved through agency consultation in the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]). Temporary impacts will be restored and revegetated on-site. Permanent impacts will be mitigated through restoring, and enhancing 5.82 acres at Mill Creek. Mitigation for coastal sage scrub areas at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 3:1 off-site mitigation for permanent impacts. Areas of temporary impacts will be revegetated with native species to restore the impacted area, minimize the potential for soil erosion, and to enable runoff absorption and filtration. The use of native plant species is emphasized throughout every aspect of the proposed Project's design. Native species will also be used to revegetate areas of temporary impact that currently have disturbed, non-native grass, and other non-native vegetation communities to promote native species restoration in the Prado Basin (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Post construction and operation.
Cultural Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.6 (Cultural Resources) indicated that there are three historic-period cultural resources that intersect with the project site. However, these resources would not be directly affected by the proposed Project as the proposed trail alignment avoids them entirely or they have since been demolished. The Project site was also investigated for archaeological resources, although none were identified. Although the potential for identifying archaeological historical resources during project ground disturbance is low, the presence of such resources cannot be entirely discounted. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 was identified and would reduce impacts to less than significant.	CUL-1 Cultural Materials Discovered during Construction Should an archaeological deposit be encountered during project subsurface construction activities, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet shall be redirected and a Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District environmental specialist and USACE Cultural Resources Specialist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for the treatment of impacts to the resource. If the deposit is found to be significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the CRHR), the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District shall be responsible for funding and implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include recordation of the archaeological deposit, data recovery and analysis, and public outreach regarding the scientific and cultural importance of the discovery. Upon completion of the selected mitigations, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations shall be prepared and submitted to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and USACE for review, and the final report shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside. Precontact cultural resources may include, but are not limited to, chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, pestles, and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic cultural resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Geology & Soils			
Section 3.8 (Geology and Soils) indicated that there are three geological unit contained in the Project area. One has a low to high paleontological potential, increasing with depth, while the other two have high potential. Because the proposed Project will require some soil disturbance, impacts to potential paleontological resources is considered potentially significant. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4 these impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.	Geo-1 Paleontological Monitoring & Mitigation Plan The qualified paleontologist should develop and oversee the implementation of a Paleontological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan tailored to the Project plans that provides for paleontological monitoring of earthwork and ground-disturbing activities into undisturbed geologic units with high paleontological potential, whether at the surface or in the subsurface, to be conducted by a paleontological monitor meeting industry standards (Murphey et al. 2019).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Paleontological monitoring is required during construction, grading, and soil removal.
	Geo-2 Workers' Environmental Awareness Program The qualified paleontologist should develop a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program training that communicates requirements and procedures for the inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction, to be delivered by the paleontological monitor to the construction crew prior to the onset of ground disturbance.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
	Geo-3 Inadvertent Discoveries In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the finds while the paleontological monitor documents the find. The designated qualified paleontologist shall assess the find. Should the qualified paleontologist assess the find as significant, the find shall be collected and curated in an accredited repository along with all necessary associated data and curation fees.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	Geo-4 Stand-Alone Paleontological Resources Awareness Training A qualified paleontologist should develop a stand-alone paleontological resources awareness training for the District. This training will include information on the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered in the area, an overview of the area's geologic and paleontological history, and instructions on steps to follow should park personnel or members of the public using the SART report the discovery of a paleontological resource. District should ensure this training is delivered to personnel responsible for operations and maintenance activities on the SART.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
Recreation			
Section 3.17 (Recreation), the proposed Project was determined to result in adverse physical impacts on the environment but would be mitigated to less than significant levels with the mitigation measures associated with Sections 3.5 (Biological Resources, 3.6 (Cultural Resources), and 3.8 (Geology and Soils). Therefore, impacts related to recreation would be less than significant with the implementation of these mitigation measures.	Not Applicable. Mitigation measures noted above would address all impacts associated with Recreation.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable



Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research
 U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk
 County of: Riverside
 Address: 4080 Lemon St
Riverside, CA 92501

From:

Public Agency: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District
 Address: 4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, California 92509
 Contact: Gaby Adame
 Phone: 951-955-1395

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Address: _____

 Contact: _____
 Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025041408

Project Title: Santa Ana River Trail (SART), Segment 3B

Project Applicant: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District

Project Location (include county): Riverside

Project Description:

Installation of a 0.66-mile multi-use trail within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin in unincorporated Riverside County. This Class I asphalt/concrete bicycle path with decomposed granite pedestrian and equestrian path will include an eight-to-ten-foot bicycle path travel way with two-foot shoulders, five percent maximum slope, two percent maximum cross fall path and shoulder slopes, minimum 2 to 1 foot slope ratio for cut/fill slopes, signage and striping along the trail, implementation of drainage improvements, and application of native hydro-seed mix along graded slope areas of the new trail phases. Construction is expected to take approximately 8 months to complete. Construction is dependent upon available funding.

This is to advise that the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District has approved the above
 (☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)

described project on July 29, 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District, 4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

Signature (Public Agency):  Title: Bureau Chief – Planning, Development & Interpretation

Date: July 30, 2025 Date Received for filing at OPR: July 30, 2025

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CLERK & RECORDER

**AUTHORIZATION
TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

-TO BE FILLED IN BY SUBMITTING AGENCY-

AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: 33100-931105-537020-PK-9746

AMOUNT: \$50.00

DATE: _____

AGENCY: REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO ISSUE A VOUCHER FOR PAYMENT OF ALL FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: One (1)

AUTHORIZED BY:

Signature: 

PRESENTED BY: MICHAEL ALFEREZ, FISCAL MANAGER

-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK-

ACCEPTED BY: _

DATE: _

RECEIPT # (S) _



**FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Santa Ana River Trail Project – 2, 2A, and 3A
State Clearinghouse Number: 2025041405

June 2025

Prepared for:

Riverside County Regional Park and Open
Space District
4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, California 92509

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
38 Technology Drive, Suite 200
Irvine, California 92618-5312
www.stantec.com

Project Number:

2042483140

1 Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

This Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Division 13, California Public Resources Code [PRC]).

1.1 PROPOSED PROJECT

The Santa Ana River Trail (SART) is a multi-use trail complex that runs alongside the Santa Ana River. When completed, it will be the longest multi-use trail in Southern California, spanning over 100 miles between San Bernardino and Orange counties. As envisioned, the trail connecting San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties would be a dual-track trail consisting of 1) paved Class I and Class II Bikeways for bicyclists and pedestrians and 2) decomposed granite (DG) surfaced riding and hiking trail for equestrians, mountain bicyclists, and hikers and would be non-motorized. The SART is currently 60 percent complete. When finished it will extend from the San Bernardino County National Forest to the Pacific Ocean at Huntington Beach where the trail ends. There are currently two gaps in the trail: from Green River in Orange County to Hidden Valley Wildlife area in Riverside County; and from Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino to the National Forest boundary line near unincorporated Mentone. The SART Phases 2, 2A and 3A would assist in closing a portion of the Green River Trail gap. The proposed Project is intended to facilitate the expansion of the existing SART network by planning and designing 2.79 miles of a dual-track Class I multi-use path/natural surface trail that would be constructed largely within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin and a portion of the City of Corona. Once constructed, the trail would be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and follow the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Highway Design Manual guidance for bicycle paths. It would also comply with County of Riverside and City of Corona Municipal Code requirements.

1.2 DETERMINATION

Based on the analysis provided in this Final IS/MND, the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) finds that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment with mitigation incorporated. The Final IS/MND considers all public comments and includes text edits that clarify or expand upon discussions in the Draft IS/MND.

1.3 FINAL IS/MND ORGANIZATION

This Final IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA (PRC Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15000 et seq.), and it includes the following:

- Section 1: An introduction to the Final IS/MND, including the District's findings
- Section 2: A summary of public and agency comments received on the Draft IS/MND, including details on distribution of the Draft IS/MND and acknowledgement or responses to comments received
- Section 3: Modifications to the Draft IS/MND (none of which affect the impact determinations presented in the Draft IS/MND)
 - No mitigation measures were changed and/or modified
- Section 4: Mitigation Measures



2 Public & Agency Comments

2.1 DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT IS/MND

In accordance with the CEQA statutes and Guidelines, the Draft IS/MND was circulated for the minimum period of 30 days for public review and comment. The review period began on April 29, 2025, and ended on May 29, 2025.

The Draft IS/MND was available for review at the District (4600 Crestmore Road Jurupa Valley, California 92509), and an electronic copy of the Draft IS/MND was available for review at: <https://www.rctc.org/projects/santa-ana-river-trail-project/>. In addition, the Draft IS/MND was filed with the State Clearinghouse (No. 2025041405) and the Riverside County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder. No public meeting was held for the proposed Project.

2.2 COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT IS/MND

During the public review period, responsible agencies and the public had an opportunity to provide written comments on the information contained within the Draft IS/MND. These comments are included in the record and will be considered by the District during deliberation as to whether necessary approvals should be granted for the proposed project. As stated in Section 21064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would only be approved when the District finds that “revisions in the project plans made by, or agreed to by, the applicant before the proposed negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur” and “there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.”

The District received several comment letters or emails during the review period and are included in Table 1 below.

The District acknowledges the comments included with these correspondences. It should be noted that the comments received do not affect the findings presented in the Draft IS/MND.



Table 1. Responses to Comments

First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Kathi	Kisiel	What plans will be in place to keep the homeless out? The city of Riverside has yet to keep their portion of the Santa Ana River Trail from being overrun by the drug addicted homeless. Once you leave Orange County's portion of the SART, my fear is that the homeless will move in. For whatever reason, Orange County has a handle on their homeless, while Riverside County isn't even close to getting their arms around their massive homeless population. Corona has a small homeless problem, but the city of Riverside has a massive drug addicted homeless problem that no one seems to be able to get under control. I would love to ride the SART closer to my home in Riverside, but so far I have had to travel into Orange County if I want to ride without encountering the homeless. As a woman, I can't ride the SART in Riverside if I am riding alone. That is a sad state of affairs for Riverside County.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 2.3.2 (Standard Operating Procedures [SOP]) of the Draft Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) 2, 2A, and 3A Project, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (RivCoParks; District) will be responsible for addressing homeless encampments potentially occurring along the trail. RivCoParks has in place a Homeless SOP and a Homeless Eviction SOP, and which has been developed to address illegal encampments along the SART and within Open Space areas. As also noted in Section 2.3.2, the proposed Project will be patrolled by District Rangers three to five days per week, based on active use periods. Rangers will monitor the area for disturbance, damage, or safety issues, which may include illegal off highway vehicle use, homeless encampments, and trail hazards with a focus on environmentally sensitive areas. The County of Riverside is actively addressing homeless issues and information in this regard is available through its Housing Authority (https://harivco.org/continuum-care-division/get-help-connect-homeless-services). For more information, please contact them directly at 951-351-0700.
Larry	Dubois	My comment is to just do it. It's been too many decades of talking about it and doing surveys to waste more time still talking about it. At 62 I will be lucky to get the opportunity to ride the complete SART before I pass. Younger riders may see these surveys as progress, but us that have been making the dangerous rides through the streets of Corona and Norco for decades just to get to the trailhead see it as wasted time. Please just finish it. Sorry if my comment is not productive, but I'm getting tired of waiting. Thank you.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Sandra	Terry	We've been considering relocating out of state, but the SART extension to Redlands and now some real action on extending it west has us rethinking our plans. As dedicated cyclists, the SART is a treasured resource and we use it multiple times a week for health and recreation. I never expected any extensions to be built and it's hard to imagine leaving now that it's finally happening. Everyone involved deserves praise for getting this done.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
BRYAN	BARRAGAN	To whom it may concern, I'm an avid cyclist and runner that resides in Corona. I'm all in on any new trail that benefits a healthy lifestyle. What makes it's frustrating with these types of projects, is how they take forever to complete. When I see continuous housing development and freeway construction being completed in a reasonable time. You start to wonder if this SART project will ever be completed. I would just love to see this project move much faster and completed sooner than later. I'm just an active county resident, so take my opinion or comment for what it's worth. Have a blessed day.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Kathy	Murphy	Very excited to hear this project is underway. I've been riding the SART fir years from the beach to the end at Green River. I've ridden the part in Riverside to San Bernardino a few times. I've always wished for the parts between Green River and Hidden Valley to be connected and ride safely away from traffic. Will be excited to ride the trail from San Bernardino to Redlands someday too.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Brent	Merideth	Please do not delay building this much overdue project. Additionally, please do not delay the completion of the other phases needed to complete the gap so the Riverside portion finally meets the Orange County portion. The project looks good - time to get it done.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Rene	Visco	Its great! Go and complete the phases!!!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Miguel	Nahuat	Can't wait til it's completed	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Jason	Nichols	The long-term gain of completing the SART, 1) on traffic reduction, 2) emissions reduction, 3) significant reduction of cyclists who have to share the road with motorists on a busy stretch of roads through Riverside and Corona, 4) overall health benefits of cycling and running increased with less demand on our already taxed health care and medical systems, among other benefits will be more than worth the upfront cost of completing the trail. This trail absolutely needs to be completed. It's been on hold for far too long.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 3.18 (Transportation) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project was determined to have no impact related to vehicle miles travelled (VMT). Moreover, the construction of the trail would improve connectivity between adjacent residential uses and would encourage area and regional residents to engage in the use of active transportation (e.g., bicycle riding, walking). In Section 3.4 (Air Quality) responses "a)", "b)", and "c)" of the Draft IS/MND for the SART 2, 2A, and 3A Project, the analysis noted that the proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts and no mitigation measures were required. The proposed Project would be constructed within its own right-of-way and would not include vehicle access (except for emergency vehicles and park rangers). As noted in Section 3.12 (Land Use & Planning) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project is an active transportation facility and is anticipated to encourage bicycle riding and walking, which may result in health benefits to users.
James	Dawson	Yes, please finish the Corona portion quickly...have been waiting many, many years for this portion to be completed. Seems silly to have a bunch of disjointed sections done that can't be ridden on continuously. Thanks!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Ben	Israel	I'm a cyclist and in addition to recreation, would actually use this to commute from inland to OC sometimes.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
James	Jesser	This project really needs to get done. Find a way to make it happen.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Oscar	Garcia	As a local resident and frequent user of the Santa Ana River Trail, I'm really excited about the plans to complete this 12.8-mile section through the Prado Basin. My friends, family, and I regularly enjoy the trail—from Green River to Huntington and from Hidden Valley to San Bernardino—and this project will finally connect a gap that many of us have been hoping to see completed. Having a continuous trail without interruptions is not just a convenience—it's a matter of safety. With recent incidents involving vehicles and cyclists/pedestrians, it's reassuring to have dedicated spaces where we don't have to worry about sharing the road with cars. A fully connected trail gives us that peace of mind. As this project moves forward, I hope safety remains a top priority—particularly in parking areas. Proper lighting, routine patrols, and smart design can help deter theft, prevent break-ins, and discourage long-term loitering or unauthorized encampments that can make the trail feel unsafe. Thank you to RCTC, RivCo Parks, and everyone involved in bringing this project to life. This extension is a major win for the active and outdoor-loving community in our region.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project would be constructed within its own right-of-way and would not include vehicle access (except for emergency vehicles and park rangers). Construction of the SART is dependent on available funding and as such, is being constructed in segments. The proposed Project would construct a portion of the planned trail, thereby assisting with closing a portion of the remaining gaps. There are no parking areas proposed as part of the proposed Project. As noted in Section 2.3.2 (Operations and Maintenance), the District has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to address safety concerns, homeless encampments, trash, etc. In addition, no lighting along the trail is proposed. The areas within the Prado Dam in which the trail would be constructed contain sensitive species and as such, lighting was eliminated per the request of resource agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife) to address potential impacts.
Daniel	Gaston	If this portion of land is owned by the US Dept of Civil Engineering couldn't the army come and pave this portion? It would be orderly and super quick and under budget.	Thank you for your comment. The land in which the SART 2, 2A, and 3A project is proposed is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE has agreed to a long-term lease agreement for construction and operation of the trail, but is not the entity responsible for its construction. The USACE is responsible for maintenance and operation of the Prado Dam facility and does not have any current proposals to develop public use trails within the dam area.
Mark	Griffen	I would love for the trail to be completed.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Chris	Gate	Let's just get this done!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Ronald	Newcomb	I'm fully supportive of this trail extension. I cycle this trail on a weekly basis and would love the opportunity to travel between the counties. This would also give commuters an option to being stuck in traffic in a car on the 91. The current trail bypass between the two counties takes you miles out of your way.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 2 (Project Description) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project is intended to facilitate the expansion of the existing SART network by planning and designing 2.79 miles of a dual-track Class I multi-use path/natural surface trail that would be constructed largely within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin and a portion of the City of Corona. Its construction is part of the larger SART multi-county trail system and closing gaps in the system, once completed, would provide access from the San Bernardino National Forest to the Pacific Ocean in Huntington Beach, Orange County.
Joe	Perez	Please get this project done as soon as possible. Long overdue, and much anticipated by many for years.	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Kyle	Mackey	I support the extension	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Richard	Fox	I am the author of the guidebook "enCYCLEpedia Southern California - the Best Easy Scenic Bike Rides" and enthusiastically support construction of this missing link of the SART, it's way overdue. It would of course also help reduce vehicle emissions and increase tourism dollars.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 3.18 (Transportation) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project was determined to have no impact related to vehicle miles travelled (VMT). Moreover, the construction of the trail would improve connectivity between adjacent residential uses and would encourage area and regional residents to engage in the use of active transportation (e.g., bicycle riding, walking).
Katarina	Landstrom	I fully support adding connecting paths past Prado Dam to connect Riverside and Orange County.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 2 (Project Description) of the Draft IS/MND, the proposed Project is intended to facilitate the expansion of the existing SART network by planning and designing 2.79 miles of a dual-track Class I multi-use path/natural surface trail that would be constructed largely within the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin and a portion of the City of Corona. Its construction is part of the larger SART multi-county trail system and closing gaps in the system, once completed, would provide access from the



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
			San Bernardino National Forest to the Pacific Ocean in Huntington Beach, Orange County.
David	Dao	Yes to the river trail extension! Would create meaningful exploration into the Riverside Area using existing infrastructure and without crowding roads.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Seth	Singer	I support this project.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Mark	McMillan	To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my support for the proposed 12.8-mile section of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) that would connect Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties through the Prado Basin. This vital project, led by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) in collaboration with RivCo Parks and other stakeholders, represents a thoughtful and forward-looking investment in Southern California's environmental, recreational, and transportation infrastructure. As an avid cyclist, I believe the completion of this segment would close a key gap in one of the most significant regional trail systems in the state. It would provide safe, scenic, and sustainable access for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, and allow residents and visitors to engage more deeply with the natural beauty of the Santa Ana River corridor. Beyond recreation, the project supports regional mobility goals by offering a viable alternative to vehicle travel—reducing traffic congestion and contributing to improved air quality. Importantly, this trail promotes equity and access to the outdoors across multiple counties, creating inclusive space for exercise, commuting, and environmental education. Providing residents with the opportunity to connect with our regions ecology and history is a way to keep the community engaged with conservation of this land. The phased approach to development also demonstrates a practical sensitivity to funding, construction, and habitat conservation concerns.	Thank you for your comment. As noted in Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) of the Draft IS/MND, the Prado Dam area contains sensitive species and the analysis determined that impacts to biological resources would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. To that end, Mitigation Measures Bio1 through Bio 7 were prepared and incorporated and are also contained in the proposed Project's Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program (see Appendix A of the Draft IS/MND and Table 2 of this Final IS/MND) and will also be implemented as part of construction.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
		I urge decision-makers to prioritize ecological stewardship during construction and to include habitat restoration and long-term maintenance planning as part of the final environmental strategy. With careful attention to sensitive areas, this project has the potential to serve as a model of responsible outdoor infrastructure development to our counties, our state, and our beautiful country. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important initiative. Sincerely, Mark Tener McMillan Brea, CA	
Mike	Cannell	I fully support this project, this greatly enhances the quality of life for Inland Empire residents.	Thank you for your comment. Comment noted. No response required.
Lloyd	Hasegawa	It would be wonderful if the trail was connected up. It's sad that it ends where it does now. I've ridden the whole southern half many times.	Thank you for your comment. The trail is being constructed as funding becomes available. Construction of the SART 2, 2A, and 3A segment would contribute to the overall trail which, when completed, will begin at the San Bernardino National Forest and terminate at the Pacific Ocean at Huntington Beach, Orange County.
Kevin	Carlson	\$35 million for less than 13 miles? That's almost \$3 million per mile. Who's laying gold bricks under the pavement? I've seen parts of this project sitting there for years—sunbaked and untouched. Why is it dragging on like the High-Speed Rail? At this rate, I wouldn't be surprised if they budgeted for equestrian valet parking and solar-powered water troughs. Where's the accountability on these budgets? Feels like the usual rinse and repeat: big promises, bigger costs, and half the results.	Thank you for your comment. The SART project, including 2, 2A, and 3A are being constructed in segments, as funding becomes available.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Randee	Tolentino	As an avid recreational cyclist, an OC resident, and a person who grew up in the Inland Empire, I fully support this project. I have done many bike rides along the SART and it's a shame that there's no connection to the Inland Empire. I feel this new connection has the potential to not just be good for recreational riders but for daily commuters as well. I know of many people who commute from cities like Corona or Riverside by car into the OC and having an option to take an e-bike down the trail would be something that interests them. I am a part of the Orange County Cycling Business Coalition. We are a new entity but have partnered with the City of Irvine with some projects already. If there's anything you think we can do to help, please feel free to email me.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Michael	Koval	This will be huge! The idea should be to create another lane of traffic to get from Riverside to the Orange County beaches. Reducing traffic on the freeway and city streets, as well as creating opportunity for electric bikes and regular bikes to transport people to and from.. along with his plan should be definite Bike leads that make it safe for cyclists to travel to the Santa Ana River Trail.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Karen	Swedlove	Completing this bike path is a GREAT idea and I fully support it! Please complete this bike path as soon as possible. Thank you	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.
Albert	Pamplona	I hope this project pushes gets approved. It will be an alternative route in going to Orange County to avoid traffic in the 91 fwy.	Thank you for your comment. No response required.
Mary	Bryne	Please connect the trails! I ride SART all the time and this extension would be a huge improvement!	Thank you for your comment. The proposed Project will be constructed as funding becomes available.



Claudia

Tenorio

SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Comment # 1:

The Santa Ana Water Board has the authority to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill materials to waters of the State under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. On April 2, 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (Procedures). Applicants proposing to discharge dredged or fill materials to waters of the State are required to comply with the Procedures unless an exclusion applies, or the discharge qualifies for coverage under a General Order.

Applicants must file an application for any activity that could result in the discharge of dredged or fill material to waters of the State in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3855.

According to page 3-12 of the Draft IS/MND, it is anticipated that the Project will impact riverine/riparian resources under the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). These aquatic resources may also be considered jurisdictional waters of the State under the Santa Ana Water Board jurisdiction. Additionally, the proposed Project is expected to result in 0.055 acre of temporary and permanent impacts to wetland waters of the State. Santa Ana Water Board staff request that the Draft IS/MND mitigation measures be updated to ensure compliance with the applicable CWA 401 Certification, waste discharge requirements, or a waiver for all impacts to the waters of the State.

Comment # 2: The Procedures for the Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State conform with Executive Order W-59-93, commonly referred to as California's "no net loss" policy for wetlands. Santa Ana Water Board staff request that mitigation measure BIO-7 be updated to include compensatory mitigation for the permanent loss of wetland habitat.

Thank you for your comment.

Response to Comment #1: As noted in Section 1.2 (Responsible & Trustee Agencies and Agencies Consulted) of the Draft IS/MND, this section noted that the proposed Project would be required to obtain a Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 401 (Water Quality Certificate) permit through the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Santa Ana. Because the 401 permit is a requirement of project approval by RWQCB prior to construction, it was not included as a mitigation measure. Similarly, nor were the project's requirement to obtain a CWA, Section 404 permit through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or a California Department of Fish & Game Code, Section 1602 Lake & Streambed Alteration Agreement. Given that these permits are required prior to project construction, they are typically not included as mitigation measures. It is understood that once issued, these permits would have certain conditions that would further assist in reducing impacts to resources.

Response to Comment #2: As noted in Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) of the Draft IS/MND, mitigation measure Bio-7 Revegetation addresses the State's Executive Order W-59-93 because it requires the following mitigation which addresses the State's no net loss and adds to the overall wetlands resources in the state. Specifically, it notes the following: *Mitigation for impacts to riparian/riverine areas at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 4.81:1 for permanent impacts (ratio approved through agency consultation in the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]). Temporary impacts will be restored and revegetated on-site. Permanent impacts will be mitigated through restoring, and enhancing 5.82 acres at Mill Creek.* In essence, the project proponent (RivCoParks; District) is providing additional wetlands to those affected by the proposed Project.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
Janki	Patel	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - SART 2, 2A, and 3A Complete Streets: 1. Section 2.3.1.4, Construction Vehicle Access, page 2-26 and Section 3.4 Air Quality, page 3-6 a. For when a Traffic Management Plan is developed, measures should be considered and taken to mitigate airborne and settling of loose construction materials that affect sensitive receptors on the roadways/ runways/ railroad tracks and access points of where these vehicles will be entering the construction area during the construction staging process. b. Construction vehicles may be accessing the trail at Auto Center Dr./ Railroad St., as this is the closest access point and SR-91 freeway interchange to the greatest majority of the segment that will be constructed that is both adjacent to the dam and wastewater treatment plant. c. Loose construction material and airborne particles may pose a hazard to aviation, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit and motor vehicle users, thru the accumulation of airborne and settled debris (including dust, dirt and rocks) in the vicinity of roadways and runways. d. Given this and other construction access points, the TMP may also need to additionally account to users/ owners of the rail line (Amtrak, SCRRA/ Metrolink and BNSF Railway) as well as the Corona Municipal Airport. 2. Section 2.3.2, Operations and Maintenance, page 2-27 a. It is identified that no lighting is proposed along the trail and that interpretive signage will be posted at staging areas and trailheads.	Thank you for your comment. Response to Comment on Complete Streets: As noted in Section 2.3.1.4 (Construction Vehicle Access) of the Draft IS/MND, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be prepared in advance of project implementation. Per Caltrans' recommendation, the District will coordinate with the users/ owners of the rail line (Amtrak, SCRRA/ Metrolink and BNSF Railway) as well as the Corona Municipal Airport to determine if they have any concerns related to the airborne and settling of loose construction materials that may affect sensitive receptors on the roadways/ runways/ railroad tracks and access points of where construction vehicles will be entering the construction area during the construction staging process. It should be noted however, that the proposed Project would be subject to South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 403, Fugitive Dust, the intent of which is to reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air as a result of anthropogenic fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce or mitigate fugitive dust emissions and therefore, a new mitigation measure for inclusion within the Final IS/MND is not required. Both the USACE and wildlife agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish & Wildlife) have noted that due to the sensitivity of the Prado Dam area, the inclusion of nighttime lighting is not acceptable since sensitive species could be negatively affected. In addition, there are no areas of the trail currently planned that would include areas where natural light penetration may be inhibited due to existing topography, organic growth and manmade structures (i.e. bridges, overcrossings, undercrossing, near large, fixed object placement, etc.). No trees would be planted along the trail embankment slope. Signage proposed by the District at the trailhead and other locations will consider Caltrans' comments in this regard. It should be noted that proposed Project is being designed per the Caltrans Design Manual and will address all required requirements. See Section 3



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
		b. While the project is designed to not create a new source of substantial light or glare and ideally not affect sensitive habitat, wildlife or nighttime views, lighting adds a safety element that should be considered in appropriate segments that add greater comfort and/ or safety to the user. Such locations may consider luminescence in areas where natural light penetration may be inhibited due to existing topography, organic growth and manmade structures (i.e. bridges, overcrossings, undercrossings, near large fixed object placement, etc.) c. User expectations and wayfinding should be taken into greater account in the design of trailhead signage. Examples of such may include, but not limited to the distance to specific landmarks or other points of interest from the specific location of the signage, as well as path type (i.e. shared roadway, unpaved or paved trail) that may not be identified in current signage along constructed trail portions. 3. Section 3.12, Land Use and Planning, Table 9, Page 3-43 a. (Goal and/ or Policy) Circulation Element b. C-15.3 Consistency Determination may have a typo in the last line that should convey similar meaning as to the C-15.5 Consistency Determination of ADA requirements of the trail sections would not contain slopes greater than 5 percent. 4. Section 3.18, Transportation, item a, page 3-61 a. This project for Phases 2, 2a and 3a would take steps towards closing the gap between existing paved SART segments in the vicinity of Prado Dam. There is a proposed trail alignment along and parallel to State Route 71 to connect Chino and Corona identified in their respective bicycle	(Modifications to the Draft IS/MND) of this Final IS/MND for proposed text changes to Table 9 (County of Riverside General Plan Consistency Analysis), Section 3.18 (Transportation), subsection a), and Section 4 (List of Prepares) of the Draft IS/MND. Response to Comment on Equitable Access: The current SART design does not affect Caltrans facilities. However, if this situation changes, the District will comply with the Caltrans's requirements, including pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the construction period. Response to Comment on Caltrans Encroachment Permit: The current SART design does not require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit. However, should this condition change, the District will coordinate with Caltrans in advance.



First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response to Comment
		and pedestrian master plans, as well as earlier SART plans from 1990 and 2004.	
		5. Section 4, List of Preparers, 4.1, Page 4-1	
		a. Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District – the First name of the Bureau Chief (Gaby) is incorrectly spelled.	
		<u>Equitable Access</u>	
		If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, they must comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards upon project completion. Additionally, the project must ensure the maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the construction phase. These access considerations align with Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.	
		<u>Caltrans Encroachment Permit</u>	
		Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.	



3 Modifications to the Draft IS/MND

This section of the Final IS/MND documents changes and additions made to the Draft IS/MND to clarify or add information. This includes the additional information provided in Section 2 in response to public comments. Deleted text is marked as ~~strikeout~~, and new text is marked as underlined. Table and section references included in the following text refer to respective items from the Draft IS/MND.

Table 9. County of Riverside General Plan Consistency Analysis

Circulation Element (C-15.3)

In addition, Segment 2A would be located adjacent to an area designated by the City of Corona General Plan as Open Space General. Per ADA requirements, the trail sections would not contain slopes greater than 5 percent.

3.18 Transportation (subsection 3.18 a)

The proposed Project is part of a multi-county regional trail facility extending from San Bernardino County to the Pacific Ocean in Orange County. The proposed Project would include the construction of three needed trail sections of the SART (see Section 2.3, Project Characteristics). They may also contribute to future connectivity of a proposed trail alignment along and parallel to State Route 71 to connect Chino and Corona identified in their respective bicycle and pedestrian master plans, as well as earlier SART plans from 1990 and 2004. These SART improvements are consistent with the Riverside County General Plan and City of Corona General Plan (see Section 3.12, Land Use and Planning). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

4 List of Preparers

Gabey

4 Mitigation Measures

Table 2 presents the mitigation measures that would be incorporated as part of the proposed Project approval through the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).



Table 2. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Biological Resources			
The analysis contained within Section 3.5 (Biological Resources) indicated that one special-status plant species (<i>paniculate tarplant [Deinandra paniculata]</i>) was present in Phase 3A. In addition, there are special-status wildlife species and include LBV and CAGN. The Project site is also part of the WRCMSHCP and is designated as Critical Habitat by the USFWS for the LBV and CAGN. There are also sensitive habitats (i.e., coastal sage scrub) that would be removed to construct the trail. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO 7 would reduce these impacts to less than significant.	BIO-1 Sound Barriers Trail construction noise levels will be restricted to below 60 decibels hourly at 100 feet from areas occupied by LBV. Portable sound barriers will be required for work occurring in occupied listed bird habitat between February 15 and August 15 (nesting bird season) to reduce noise levels to 60 decibels or below.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	BIO-2 Least Bell's Vireo Surveys & Nesting Bird Surveys One week prior to ground-disturbing activities, a minimum of three surveys will be conducted on separate days to determine Least Bell's Vireo nesting status within 300 feet of the work area; one survey conducted one day prior to activities. If LBV nesting is observed, nest monitoring will be initiated and no work will occur within 300 feet of the nest until the nest succeeds or fails, as determined by a qualified biologist. Post-construction protocol surveys for Least Bell's Vireo should be conducted a minimum of once every three years to monitor the use and nest success within conserved habitat (see Section 7.1.2 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]). Whenever possible, construction and maintenance activities should not occur during the nesting bird season (February 15-September 1). If the nesting bird season is unavoidable, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys prior to work activities to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds no earlier than seven (7) days prior to work activities. Should an active nest be observed, no ground-disturbing work shall occur within a 250-foot buffer for non-special status nesting passerine birds, or 500-foot buffer area for nesting raptors (see sections 6.1 and 7.1.2 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during operation (within conserved habitat).
	BIO-3 Wildlife Education Program A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for proposed Project personnel prior to grading to ensure workers are familiar with the species, noise restrictions, and measures that will be implemented on the Project. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and the WRCMSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the WRCMSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the proposed Project, and the access routes to and from the proposed Project area boundaries within which the proposed Project activities must be accomplished (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to earthmoving and construction activities and during construction for any new crews or personnel.
	BIO-4 Biological Monitoring During Construction A qualified biologist shall monitor construction activities for the duration of the proposed Project to ensure that practical measures are being employed to avoid incidental disturbance of habitat and species of concern outside the proposed Project footprint (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
	BIO-5 Native Vegetation Removal The removal of native vegetation shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practical. Temporary impacts shall be returned to preexisting contours and revegetated with appropriate native species (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and upon project completion.
	BIO-6 Trash Removal To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the proposed Project area shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s) (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction and operation.
	BIO-7 Revegetation Mitigation for impacts to riparian/riverine areas at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 4.81:1 for permanent impacts (ratio approved through agency consultation in the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]). Temporary impacts will be restored and revegetated on-site. Permanent impacts will be mitigated through restoring, and enhancing 5.82 acres at Mill Creek. Mitigation for coastal sage scrub areas at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 3:1 off-site mitigation for permanent impacts. Areas of temporary impacts will be revegetated with native species to restore the impacted area, minimize the potential for soil erosion, and to enable runoff absorption and filtration. The use of native plant species is emphasized throughout every aspect of the proposed Project's design. Native species will also be used to revegetate areas of temporary impact that currently have disturbed, non-native grass, and other non-native vegetation communities to promote native species restoration in the Prado Basin (see Standard Best Management Practices, Section 6.1.1 of the addendum DBESP [Appendix E of the Initial Study]).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Post construction and operation.
Cultural Resources			
The analysis contained in Section 3.6 (Cultural Resources) indicated that there are three historic-period cultural resources that intersect with the project site. However, these resources would not be directly affected by the proposed Project as the proposed trail alignment avoids them entirely or they have since been demolished. The Project site was also investigated for archaeological resources, although none were identified. Although the potential for identifying archaeological historical resources during project ground disturbance is low, the presence of such resources cannot be entirely discounted. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 was identified and would reduce impacts to less than significant.	CUL-1 Cultural Materials Discovered during Construction Should an archaeological deposit be encountered during project subsurface construction activities, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet shall be redirected and a Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District environmental specialist and USACE Cultural Resources Specialist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for the treatment of impacts to the resource. If the deposit is found to be significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the CRHR), the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District shall be responsible for funding and implementing appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include recordation of the archaeological deposit, data recovery and analysis, and public outreach regarding the scientific and cultural importance of the discovery. Upon completion of the selected mitigations, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations shall be prepared and submitted to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and USACE for review, and the final report shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside. Precontact cultural resources may include, but are not limited to, chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, pestles, and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic cultural resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.



Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Responsible / Monitoring Party	Monitoring Action or Implementation Stage
Geology & Soils			
Section 3.8 (Geology and Soils) indicated that there are three geological unit contained in the Project area. One has a low to high paleontological potential, increasing with depth, while the other two have high potential. Because the proposed Project will require some soil disturbance, impacts to potential paleontological resources is considered potentially significant. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1, GEO-2, GEO-3, and GEO-4 these impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.	Geo-1 Paleontological Monitoring & Mitigation Plan The qualified paleontologist should develop and oversee the implementation of a Paleontological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan tailored to the Project plans that provides for paleontological monitoring of earthwork and ground-disturbing activities into undisturbed geologic units with high paleontological potential, whether at the surface or in the subsurface, to be conducted by a paleontological monitor meeting industry standards (Murphey et al. 2019).	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Paleontological monitoring is required during construction, grading, and soil removal.
	Geo-2 Workers' Environmental Awareness Program The qualified paleontologist should develop a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program training that communicates requirements and procedures for the inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources during construction, to be delivered by the paleontological monitor to the construction crew prior to the onset of ground disturbance.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
	Geo-3 Inadvertent Discoveries In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the finds while the paleontological monitor documents the find. The designated qualified paleontologist shall assess the find. Should the qualified paleontologist assess the find as significant, the find shall be collected and curated in an accredited repository along with all necessary associated data and curation fees.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	During construction.
	Geo-4 Stand-Alone Paleontological Resources Awareness Training A qualified paleontologist should develop a stand-alone paleontological resources awareness training for the District. This training will include information on the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered in the area, an overview of the area's geologic and paleontological history, and instructions on steps to follow should park personnel or members of the public using the SART report the discovery of a paleontological resource. District should ensure this training is delivered to personnel responsible for operations and maintenance activities on the SART.	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District	Prior to construction and grading and soil removal.
Recreation			
Section 3.17 (Recreation), the proposed Project was determined to result in adverse physical impacts on the environment but would be mitigated to less than significant levels with the mitigation measures associated with Sections 3.5 (Biological Resources, 3.6 (Cultural Resources), and 3.8 (Geology and Soils). Therefore, impacts related to recreation would be less than significant with the implementation of these mitigation measures.	Not Applicable. Mitigation measures noted above would address all impacts associated with Recreation.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

