



Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 378-3200

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This is to inform the general public that the Orange County Water District (OCWD) proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the following project:

Project Title: **Smith Basin Improvement Project**

Project Description: The proposed project under the previous scoping (June 2018 NOP Proposed Project) involved two (2) project alternatives. Alternative 1 involved improvement to increase geotechnical stability of the Smith Basin embankment slopes in six (6) areas. Under Alternative 2, all improvements under Alternative 1 would be included, except that under Alternative 2, Santiago Creek would be reestablished along the toe of the slopes in its current alignment and would maintain its current width and depth and would be protected in place with rip rap.

In August 2018, the OCWD reevaluated the NOP Proposed Project and began the revision process to the scope of work. Limits were placed on the proposed improvements, reducing the number of areas proposed for stabilization from six (6) to three (3) and realigning the Santiago Creek to its prior alignment instead of stabilizing it in its current location.

The Proposed Project activities includes re-establishing the historical access road on the north; re-grading the bottom of Smith Basin to restore Santiago Creek in its former alignment nearer the middle of the basin; repairing and reconstructing the slopes in the basin; constructing six (6) groins to slow water flow along the southern slope; and restoration of removed vegetation.

Project Location: The proposed improvement activities would occur within the area of Smith Basin, in the Cities of Orange and Villa Park, and portion of unincorporated county land in Orange County. The Smith Basin is bounded by Lemon Street to the west, Cannon Street to the east, Villa Park Road to the south and Santiago Boulevard to the north. The Project Site can be regionally accessed by State Route 55 via the



Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 378-3200

Chapman Avenue exit. The Smith Basin is located downstream of Villa Park Dam and Santiago Reservoir and receive incoming flows from Santiago Creek, which drains into and out of the basin. The Project Site is located at Township T4 South, Range R9 West on U.S.G.S. Quad Map for Orange.

Public Review Period: March 6, 2020 to April 6, 2020

Hearing Date: April 15, 2020 at 5:30p.m.

Hearing Location: Orange County Water District
Boardroom
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

The Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study as well as all referenced documents will be available for public review at the Orange County Water District located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California and online at <https://www.ocwd.com/working-with-us/public-notices/>.

Please submit comments on the Negative Declaration on or before April 6, 2020 to:
Shawn Nevill, Principal Planner
Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Shawn Nevill at (714) 378-3256.