

## Smith Basin Improvement Project

### Appendix A

### Prior Scoping

# **Orange County Water District Smith Basin Improvement Project**

## **Initial Study/Notice of Preparation Environmental Impact Report**



**Orange County Water District  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
Contact: Daniel Bott**

**June 2018**

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## **SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Orange County Water District (OCWD) proposes to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Smith Basin Improvement Project. The OCWD is the Lead Agency for preparation of the EIR.

This document is an Initial Study that evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the Smith Basin Improvement Project. The Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., State CEQA Guidelines, and the OCWD Environmental Procedures. The Initial Study identifies environmental issues that do not require further evaluation and potentially significant environmental issues that require further evaluation. Based on the environmental review contained in this Initial Study it has been determined that implementation of the Smith Basin Improvement Project could have the potential to result in significant impacts to the environment and that the preparation of an EIR is required to comply with CEQA. A preliminary evaluation of potential impacts to the environment is presented in Sections 3 and 4 of this Initial Study.

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR shall be prepared and circulated to California Office of Planning and Research, trustee agencies, responsible agencies and reviewing agencies for a 30-day public review period to help identify issues that require evaluation in the EIR. At this time we are requesting your comments on the scope of the Smith Basin Improvement Project and the identification of issues that should be evaluated in the EIR. Due to time limits mandated by state law, your response must be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. The public review period for the NOP will extend from June 26, to July 26, 2018.

## **SECTION 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Proposed Project**

The proposed project involves proposed improvements to increase the geotechnical stability of embankment slopes within Smith Basin. Portions of the embankment slopes have experienced varied amounts of erosion from seasonal water runoff, major flood events and water impoundment.

### **Existing Setting**

As shown in Figure 1, Smith Basin is an existing OCWD groundwater management basin located on the north side of Villa Park Road, generally between Lemon Street and Santiago Boulevard, within the City of Orange, Orange County California. Smith Basin is part of OCWD's Santiago Basin complex of groundwater management basins, which also includes Santiago Basin, Bond Pit and Blue Diamond Pit. The basin is roughly triangular and is bordered on the north and west by single family residential uses, on the east by Oak Ridge Private School and North Santiago Boulevard, and on the south by Villa Park Road and Blue Diamond and Bond Pits. The basin contains California coastal sage habitat on the steep slopes and along upland shelves. Santiago Creek flows into the basin and meanders along the southern slope of Smith Basin before emptying into Blue Diamond Basin through a 21-foot diameter corrugated metal pipe that extends under Villa Park Road. A riparian corridor exists along the full length of the creek and at intervals on the basin floor.

The Smith Basin embankment slopes vary from 50 feet to 80 feet in height and vary in slope ratio from approximately 1:1 to 2:1, except near the southwest corner of the basin where the embankment slope is approximately 1:1. A portion of the north embankment slope has been improved with concrete v-ditch drainage improvements. A maintenance road is present along the top of the eastern embankment slope and along the eastern portion of the southern embankment slope. Portions of the basin interior and lower areas of the southern and eastern embankment slopes are covered with dense vegetation. Erosion has resulted in near-vertical scarps in some areas. As shown in Figure 2 a total of six areas have been identified in Smith Basin that have experienced significant erosion. Remedial grading and improvements to Santiago Creek are necessary to stabilize the basin embankments and minimize future erosion. Two potential remedial grading alternatives have been identified to stabilize the slope embankments at Smith Basin. Both alternatives will be evaluated in the EIR.

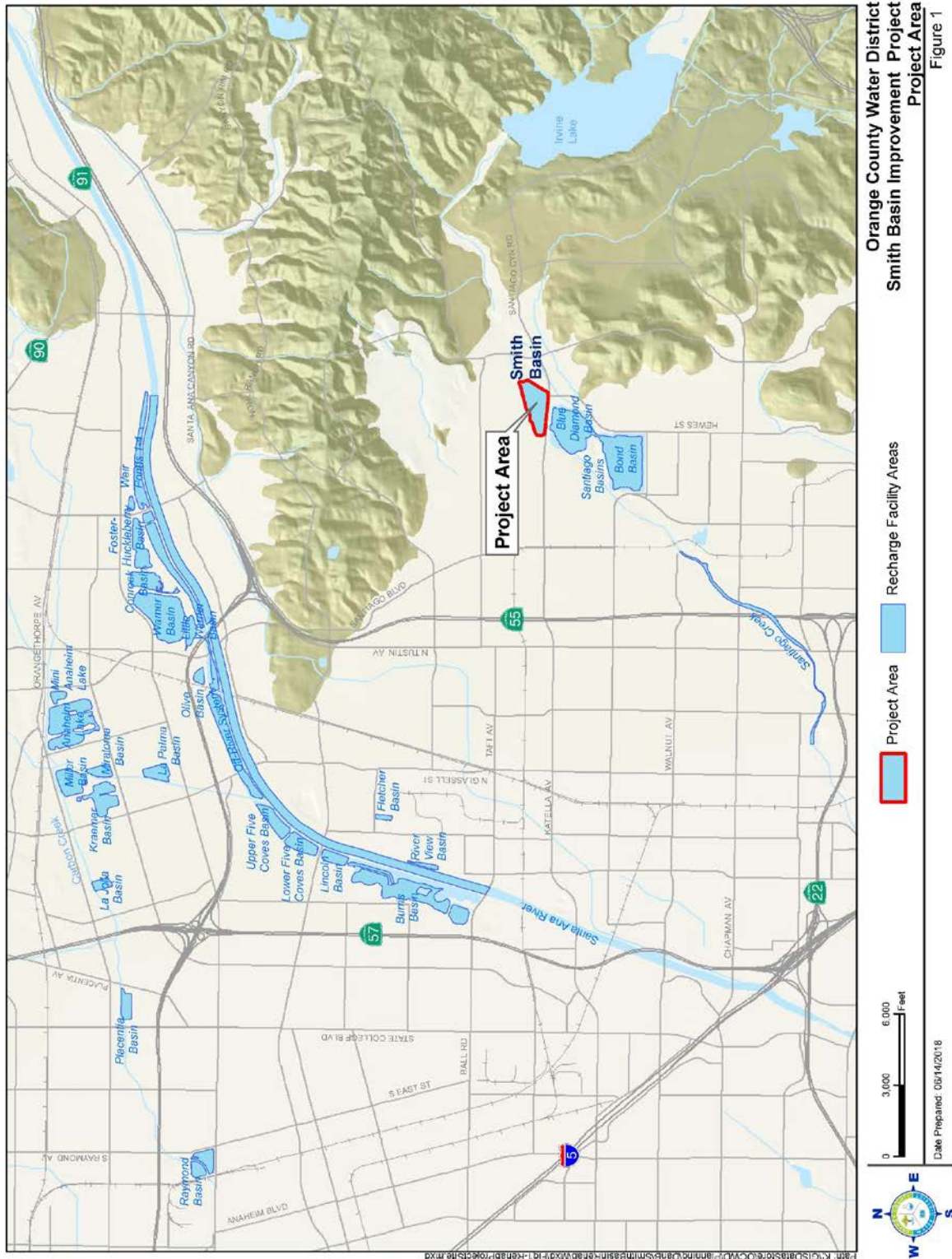
### **Alternative 1 Proposed Project Repair Slopes and Re-Establish Santiago Creek to its Original Alignment**

Under Alternative 1, six areas within Smith Basin would be repaired and/or improved to increase geotechnical stability. As part of the improvements most of the bottom of Smith

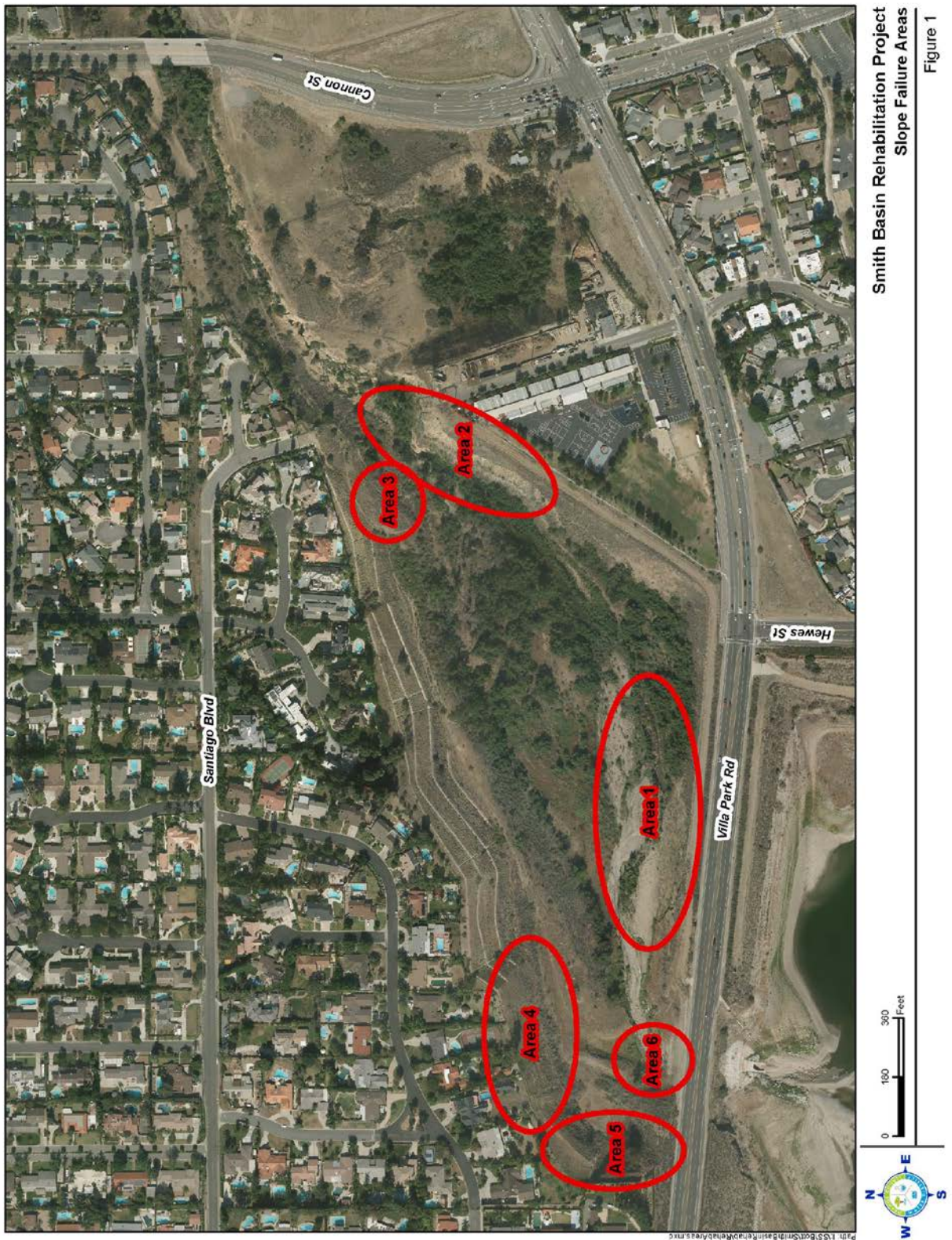
Basin would be re-graded to repair the existing slope damage and to re-establish Santiago Creek to its original pre-1980 alignment. The creek would have a width ranging from 3 to 10 feet and a depth of 3 to 4 feet. Relocating the creek would help to prevent future damage to the slopes from erosion caused by Santiago Creek flowing at the base of the slopes. With relocating the creek to its original alignment no rip rap protection would be required and the creek would have a more natural appearance. Under Alternative 1, the grading activities would be balanced onsite and would not require the importing of fill material.

### **Alternative 2 Protection Existing Santiago Creek Alignment**

Under Alternative 2, all construction activities would be the same as Alternative 1 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. Additionally, rip rap would be placed along the base of the slopes of Area 1 and Area 2 to prevent recurrence of the erosion and damage to the slope embankments. Under alternative 2, there would be a reduced amount of grading activity. However, a substantial amount of fill material and rip rap material would need to be imported into the site to repair the damaged embankments.







Smith Basin Rehabilitation Project  
Slope Failure Areas

Figure 1



## SECTION 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. **Project Title:** Smith Basin Improvement Project
2. **Lead Agency Name/Address:** Orange County Water District  
18700 Ward street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
3. **Project Contact:** Daniel Bott
4. **Location:** Smith Basin, Villa Park Road, west of Cannon Street.
5. **Environmental Determination based on this initial study evaluation, I find that;**

A	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR (EIR--) pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the project, nothing further is required.
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pursuant to Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR (EIR --) has been prepared earlier and only minor technical changes or additions are necessary to make the previous EIR adequate and these changes do not raise important new issues and significant effects on the environment. An ADDENDUM to the EIR shall be prepared.
F	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pursuant to Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR (EIR--) has been prepared earlier; however, subsequent proposed changes in the project and /or new information of substantial importance will cause one or more significant effects not previously discussed. A SUBSEQUENT EIR shall be prepared.

<b>Aesthetics: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Agriculture and Forestry Resources: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agriculture use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agriculture use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agriculture use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Air Quality: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in substantial emissions (such as odors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Biological Resources: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool). Through	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Cultural Resources: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Geology and Soils: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Expose people or structures potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

known fault?				
b) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including landslides?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable because of the project, and potentially result in on-or-off site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the uniform Building code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



<b>Hazards and Hazardous Material: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people riding or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private air strip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Hydrology and Water Quality: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local ground water table level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on-or-offsite?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface water runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or-off site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance rate map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding because of the failure of a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

levee or dam?				
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Land Use and Planning: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purposes of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mineral Resources: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Noise: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Population and Housing: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly by proposing new homes and indirectly through extension of roads or other infrastructure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public Services: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Recreation: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Transportation: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, considering all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service demand measures, or other standards established by the county	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tribal Cultural Resources: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object with cultural value to a California native American tribe and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1 (K)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object with cultural value to a California native American tribe and that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in Subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Utilities and Service Systems: Would the project</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mandatory Findings of Significance</b>	<b>Potential Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history?				
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SECTION 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

### 4.1 Aesthetics

#### **A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** Smith Basin an existing groundwater management basin. While the basin is used for groundwater management, it along with the other basins in the Santiago Basin Complex provides open space relief to an area that is predominantly urbanized. The City of Orange General Plan shows that there are park sites and hiking and biking trails near Smith Basin which provide public views into Smith Basin. During construction of the proposed project public views into Smith Basin could be interrupted with construction equipment and construction activity. The EIR will evaluate potential impacts to scenic vistas into Smith Basin.

#### **B. Would the project damage scenic resources, including but limited to trees, rock outpourings, and historic buildings within a State Highway?**

**No Impact:** According to the California Department of Transportation Scenic Highways Program, the closest Eligible State Scenic Highway would be the segment of State Route 91, located east of State Route 55, approximately 2.5 miles from Smith Basin. At this distance any activity occurring in Smith Basin would not be within the view shed of motorists along State Route 91. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **C. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings.**

**Potentially Significant Impact:** The visual character of Smith Basin is natural open space. During construction operations, the existing natural open space visual character of the site would be replaced with construction equipment and construction activity. The EIR will evaluate potential impacts to the existing aesthetic character of Smith Basin because of implementation of the proposed project.

#### **D. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not introduce permanent or temporary light and glare impacts into the project area. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

### 4.2 Agricultural Resources/Forest Resources

#### **A. Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?**

**No Impact:** The project site is a groundwater management basin and is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, the proposed project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agriculture uses. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**B. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?**

**No Impact:** The project site is not zoned for agriculture uses and the property is not under a Williamson contract. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**C. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of forest land or timberland.**

**No Impact:** The City of Orange General Plan identifies the project site as a water body. The proposed project would not change the existing use of the project site. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**D. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

**No Impact:** According to the California Department of Forestry, the project site is not designated State Forest Lands. The proposed project would not permanently convert forest land to non-forest land uses. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**E. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would not permanently convert forest land to non-forest land uses. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

### **4.3 Air Quality**

**A. Would the project be in conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or congestion management plan?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The project area is located within the South Coast Air Basin. The air pollution control agency for the basin is the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The construction and operation of the proposed project could emit criteria air quality pollutant emissions that could exceed SCAQMD thresholds and could result in potentially significant air quality impacts that could potentially be in conflict with SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.



**B. Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The construction the proposed project could emit criteria air quality pollutant emissions that could exceed SCAQMD regional air quality thresholds and could result in potentially significant regional air quality impacts. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

**C. Would the project result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The construction of the proposed project could emit criteria air quality pollutant emissions that together with other cumulative projects in the project area could exceed SCAQMD thresholds and could result in potentially significant air quality impacts. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

**D. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The construction of the proposed project could emit criteria air quality pollutant emissions that could exceed SCAQMD thresholds and result in potentially significant localized air quality impacts. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

**E. Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** Land uses typically considered associated with long term odor impacts include; wastewater treatment facilities, waste-disposal facilities, or agricultural operations. The proposed project does not propose any land uses typically associated with emitting long term objectionable odors. However, diesel exhaust would be emitted during construction of the proposed project, which could be objectionable to sensitive receptors within the project area. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **4.4 Biological Resources**

**A. Would the project have a substantial adverse impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** Based on review of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database and the United States Department of Interior Information, Planning and Conservation System Database there would be potential that special status wildlife species and special status plant species could occur within the

USGS Orange Quadrangle where the project site is located. Additionally, onsite biological surveys have been conducted on the project site that have identified the Federal and State Listed Endangered Least Bell's Vireo and the State listed Threatened California Coastal Gnatcatcher. The EIR will determine the potential for special status plant species and special status wildlife species to occur on the project site and will evaluate if construction activities for the proposed project have the potential to result in adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant species and their habitat.

**B. Would the project have a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The project site contains native riparian vegetation communities and native upland vegetation communities. Both vegetation communities are recognized as sensitive by California Department Fish and Wildlife. Implementation of the proposed project would result in temporary impacts to both vegetation communities. The EIR will provide an inventory of sensitive vegetation communities on the project site and will evaluate potential impacts to sensitive vegetation communities that might result from the construction activities for the proposed project.

**C. Would the project have a substantially adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling hydrological interruption, or other means?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** Santiago Creek extends through the project site, which is classified as Waters of the U.S. and State. Additionally, the riparian vegetation on project site could potentially be classified as wetland waters of the U.S. and State. The proposed project would provide improvements to and potentially re-align Santiago Creek. Additionally, construction operations would temporarily remove riparian vegetation from the site. The EIR would document waters and wetland waters of the U.S. and State on the project site and potential impacts to them associated with implementation of the proposed project.

**D. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** Smith Basin is part of the Santiago Basin Groundwater Management Complex. A 21-foot diameter corrugated metal pipe between Smith Basin and Blue Diamond Basin provides hydrologic connection between both basins allowing for movement of aquatic life when the basin contains water. Additionally, during dry periods, the metal pipe allows wildlife movement to occur between both basins. The EIR

will evaluate potential impacts to wildlife movement that could occur from implementation of the proposed project.

Smith Basin contains a substantial number of trees and other habitat that provides suitable nesting areas for migratory birds. Implementation of the proposed project would require the removal of suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds. The EIR will evaluate potential impacts to migratory birds that could be associated with the removal nesting habitat from the project site.

**E. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will evaluate if the proposed project would conflict with local policies and ordinances that provide for the protection of biological resources.

**F. Would the project be in conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

**No Impact:** The study area is not included within a Habitat Conservation Plan or a Natural Communities Conservation Plan. The EIR will not evaluate if the proposed project would conflict with Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Communities Conservation Plans.

#### **4.5 Cultural Resources**

**A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will conduct a cultural resource evaluation to determine the potential for historical resources to be present on the project site and the potential for them to be impacted by the proposed project.

**B. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will conduct a cultural resource evaluation to determine the potential for archeological resources to be present on the project site and the potential for them to be impacted by the proposed project.

**C. Would the project directly or indirectly disturb or destroy a unique paleontological resource or site?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will conduct a paleontological evaluation to determine the potential for paleontological resources to be present on the project site and potential for them to be impacted by the proposed project.

**D. Would the project disturb any human remains including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will conduct a cultural resource evaluation to determine the potential for burial grounds to be present on the project site and the potential for them to be impacted by the proposed project.

#### **4.6 Geology/Soils**

**A. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving rupture of an unknown earthquake fault, as delineated on the most Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map?**

**No Impact:** According to the City of Orange General Plan State of California Special Studies Zones Map USGS Orange Quadrangle, there is not an active earthquake fault that extends through the project site. Therefore, there would be low potential for ground rupture impacts to occur. The EIR will not evaluate potential ground rupture impacts.

**B. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The study area is located in a seismically active region that could be subject to seismic shaking impacts from earthquakes generated from several surrounding active faults in the region, including the El Modena Fault and the Peralta Hills Fault. The EIR will evaluate potential seismic constraints and how they might impact the construction and operation of the proposed project.

**C. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving liquefaction?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The City of Orange General Plan and California Geologic Survey Seismic Hazard Zone Map for the USGS Orange Quadrangle indicates that the study area is located within a Liquefaction Hazard Zone. The EIR will evaluate potential liquefaction constraints and how they might impact the construction and operation of the proposed project.

**D. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving landslides?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The City of Orange General Plan and California Geologic Survey Seismic Hazard Zone Map USGS Orange Quadrangle indicates that the project site is not located within a landslide hazard zone. However, the slope embankments in Smith Basin have experienced significant slope failures. The EIR will evaluate the

geotechnical stability of the onsite soils and the suitability of the soil to be used as material to repair the failed slope embankments.

**E. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** Construction activities associated with the proposed project would clear vegetation from Smith Basin, increasing the potential for erosion impacts. The EIR will evaluate potential erosion impacts that might result from the construction of the proposed project.

**F. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable because of the project and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will evaluate potential seismic and liquefaction constraints and how they might impact the construction and operation of the proposed project.

**G. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will evaluate the geotechnical stability of the onsite soils and the suitability of the soils to be used as material to repair the failed slope embankments.

**H. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?**

**No Impact.** The proposed project does not propose the use of septic tanks or other alternative wastewater disposal systems. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **4.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**A. Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The construction of the proposed project would generate greenhouse gas emissions. The EIR will evaluate potential greenhouse gas emission impacts generated from the construction and operation of the proposed project.

**B. Would the project be in conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The OCWD and the South Coast Air Quality Management District both do not have an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. The State has prepared a draft scoping



plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The EIR will evaluate the greenhouse gas emission generated from the construction operations for the proposed project and will determine potential conflicts with the State draft scoping plan.

#### **4.8 Hazards/Hazardous Materials**

##### **A. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?**

**Less than Significant Impact:** The operation of the proposed project would not involve the routine transportation, disposal or emission of hazardous materials or waste. The construction of the proposed project would involve the handling of incidental amounts of hazardous materials, such as fuels and oil. The proposed project would be required to comply with local, state and federal laws and regulations regarding the handling and storage of hazardous materials. Compliance with the required local, state and federal laws and regulations would reduce potential hazard substance impacts associated with the handling of incidental amounts of hazardous materials to a less than significant level. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

##### **B. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?**

**Less than Significant Impact:** The operation of the proposed project would not create a substantial risk in regard to the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Construction operations associated with the proposed project would involve the handling of incidental amounts of hazardous materials. Compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations would reduce potential impacts associated with the handling of these incidental amounts of hazardous materials to a less than significant level. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

##### **C. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substance or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.**

**No Impact:** The operation and construction of the proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions, or involve the handling of acutely hazardous substances within one quarter mile of a school. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

##### **D. Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and as a result, would create significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

**No Impact:** The project site and the immediately surrounding area is not on a list of hazardous material sites. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**E. For a project located within an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project the result in a safety hazard for people residing or working within the project area?**

**No Impact:** The closest airport to the project site would be John Wayne Airport. According to the John Wayne Airport Environs Land Use Plan, the project site is not located within an aircraft safety hazard zone. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**F. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?**

**No Impact:** There are no private air strips within the vicinity of the project site that would pose a safety hazard to the public. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**G. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not involve any full roadway closures or other activities that would interfere with emergency evacuation plans or emergency responses to and from the project site. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**H. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wild land fires, including where wild lands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wild lands?**

**Less than Significant Impact:** The City of Orange General Plan identifies that Smith Basin is located within area designated as High Wildland Fire Hazard. The proposed project would not involve the construction of any structures that would increase Wildland Fire risks. During construction operations the proposed project would comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding the handling of flammable materials. Compliance with these regulations and laws would reduce the risks for wildland fire impacts. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **4.9 Hydrology/Water Quality**

**A. Would the project violate Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Quality standards or waste discharge standards?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will evaluate potential water quality impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project, as well as compliance with regulations and standards provided in the Santa Ana Region Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan.

**B. Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would not involve any activities that would involve the extraction of groundwater. The EIR will not evaluate potential impacts to groundwater supplies within the study area.

**C. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The grading activities for the proposed project would remove most of the vegetation from the project site. The exposed soil would increase the potential for erosion and sedimentation impacts. The EIR will evaluate potential erosion and sedimentation impacts that could occur from the proposed project construction activities.

**D. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The proposed project would provide improvements to and could potentially realign Santiago Creek from its current alignment. The EIR will evaluate if any increased flood risks would occur from the proposed improvements and from the potential realignment of Santiago Creek.

**E. Would the project create or contribute runoff which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would not construct any impervious surfaces that would substantially increase existing rates of surface water runoff or provide additional sources of polluted runoff. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**F. Would the project otherwise degrade water quality?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The proposed project would involve the operation of heavy construction equipment within and near Santiago Creek. The EIR will evaluate potential water quality impacts associated with the construction activities for the proposed project.

**G. Would the project place housing within a 100-year floodplain, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate map or other flood hazard delineation map?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project does not involve the construction of housing within a 100-year floodplain. This EIR will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**H. Would the project place within a 100-year floodplain structures which impedes or redirect flows?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** Santiago Creek upstream and downstream of Smith Basin is designated a 100-year flood area. The EIR will evaluate if the proposed improvements to Santiago Creek and Smith Basin would impede flood flows along Santiago Creek.

**I. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?**

**Less than Significant Impact:** The proposed project would be implemented within an existing groundwater management basin. Upstream of Smith Basin is the Villa Park Dam. In the event of failure of the dam, flood flows would be conveyed into Smith Basin and the other basins within the Santiago Basin Complex, avoiding potential adverse flood impacts. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**J. Could the project site be inundated by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?**

**No Impact:** The potential for the study area to be inundated by a seiche, tsunami or mudflow would be very low. Implementation of the proposed project would not increase the risk for these impacts. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **4.10 Land Use/Planning**

**A. Would the project physically divide an established community?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would not construct any structures or involve any activities that would physically divide an established community. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**B. Would the project be in conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not change the existing use of Smith Basin. The proposed construction activities would comply with local, state and federal planning programs that would be relevant to the project site. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**C. Would the project be in conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?**

**No Impact:** The project site is not included within a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **4.11 Mineral Resources**

**A. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a regionally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use?**

**No Impact:** According to the City of Orange General Plan the project site is not designated has a site that contains regionally important mineral resources. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**B. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.**

**No Impact:** According to the City of Orange General Plan the project site is not designated has a site that contains locally important mineral resources. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **4.12 Noise**

**A. Would the project expose persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The project site is near sensitive receptors, including single family residences and a private school. The construction activities would temporarily increase ambient noise levels within the project area. The EIR will evaluate temporary noise impacts on sensitive receptors and compliance with local noise standards and policies.

**B. Would the project exposure persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The construction activities for the proposed project would involve the use of heavy construction equipment which might cause localized vibration impacts. The EIR will evaluate potential vibration impacts associated with the construction of the proposed project.

**C. Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would not generate long term operational noise impacts within the project area. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**D. Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The construction activities for the proposed project would temporarily increase ambient noise levels within the project area. The EIR will evaluate temporary noise impacts on sensitive receptors.

**E. For a project located within an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

**No Impact.** The project site is not located within two miles of a public airport and is not impacted with excessive aircraft noise impacts. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**F. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

**No Impact:** The project site is not within the vicinity of a private air strip and is not impacted with excessive aircraft noise impacts. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### **4.13 Population/Housing**

**A. Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly?**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not involve the extension of new infrastructure into existing undeveloped areas that would induce new population growth into the project area. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**B: Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not displace existing housing that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**C: Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not displace substantial numbers of people and would not necessitate the need for replacement housing. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### 4.14 Public Services

**A. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities.**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not generate any long term demands for additional public services beyond the current levels of demand within the project area or would increase emergency response times to the project area. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

#### 4.15 Recreation

**A. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would not generate increased demands for recreation facilities. This issue will not be evaluate in the EIR.

**B. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.**

**No Impact:** The proposed project does not propose the construction of any recreation facilities. This issue will not be evaluate in the EIR.

#### 4.16 Transportation/Traffic

**A. Would the project be in conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrians and bicycle paths and mass transit?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The proposed project would not generate long-term traffic trips within the project area circulation system. The proposed project would generate construction related traffic trips associated with the potential importing of soil, hauling of materials, mobilization and demobilization of construction equipment, and worker traffic. The EIR will evaluate construction related traffic impacts generated by the proposed project.

**B. Would the project be in conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the County's congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The proposed project would generate construction related traffic trips. The EIR will determine if the construction traffic from the proposed project would conflict with the County of Orange Congestion Management Plan.

**C. Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?**

**No Impact.** Implementation of the proposed project would not increase the level of air traffic within the regional area. The proposed project does not include any component that would encroach into navigable air space that would cause a change to air traffic patterns. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**D. Would the project increase hazards to a design feature or incompatible uses or equipment?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The proposed project would not involve any modifications to existing study area roadways that would cause or increase a safety hazard. The proposed project would require the mobilization and demobilization of large pieces of construction equipment to and from the project site. The heavy construction equipment would utilize existing roads within the project area and could temporarily require the temporary closure travel lanes and bike lanes which could result in potential traffic hazards for motorist, bicyclist and pedestrians. The EIR will evaluate potential traffic hazards that could be caused by the proposed project.

**E. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would not cause any road way closures that would inhibit emergency access into and out of the project site. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**F. Would the project be in conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The proposed project would require the mobilization and demobilization of large pieces of construction equipment to and from the project site. The heavy construction equipment would utilize existing roads within the study area and could require temporary bike lane closures. The EIR will evaluate potential impacts on



bikeways and pedestrian facilities associated with the construction activities for the proposed project.

#### 4.17 Tribal Resources

**A.) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with value to a California Native American Tribe and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register or Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources.**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will conduct a cultural resource evaluation to determine the potential for Native American tribal resources to be present on the project site and the potential for them to be impacted by the proposed project.

**B.) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with value to a California native American Tribe and that is a resource determined by the lead agency in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence to be significant and which the lead agency considers the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The EIR will conduct a cultural resource evaluation to determine the potential for Native American tribal resources to be present on the project site and the potential for them to be impacted by the proposed project.

#### 4.18 Utilities/Service Systems

**A. Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not generate new wastewater flows. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not exceed any treatment requirements established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**B. Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

**No Impact:** The proposed project would involve remedial grading activities to repair the slope embankments of an existing groundwater management basin and would not involve the construction of new water facilities, new wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, implementation of

the proposed project would not result in significant environmental impacts regarding the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**C. Would the project require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

**Potential Significant Impact:** The proposed project will involve improvements to Santiago Creek, which serves as a drainage facility. The EIR will evaluate impacts to Santiago Creek associated with implementation of the proposed project.

**D. Are sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or new or expanded entitlements needed?**

**No Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not require new water supplies. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**E. Would the project result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments.**

**No Impact.** The construction and operation of the proposed project would not generate any wastewater treatment demands or involve the operation of any facilities that would involve treated wastewater. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not have any adverse impact on the capacity of wastewater treatment providers to the area. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**F. Is the project served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project solid waste disposal need?**

**Less than Significant Impact:** Implementation of the proposed project would not generate long term demands for solid waste disposal, beyond the exiting level of demands. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**G. Would the project comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

**Less than Significant Impact:** The proposed project will not involve any activities that would conflict with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste disposal. This issue will not be evaluated in the EIR.

**MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**A. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife**

**population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.**

**Potentially Significant Impact:** The project site has been identified to contain special status plant and wildlife species, sensitive vegetation communities. It is unknown if the site would contain sensitive cultural resources. The EIR will evaluate the potential for special status plant and wildlife species and sensitive cultural resources to be present on the project site and the potential for the construction of the proposed project to adversely impact them.

**B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable?**

**Potentially Significant Impact:** The construction of the proposed project could generate air quality and greenhouse gas emissions that could result in significant cumulative air quality impacts. The EIR would evaluate potential cumulative air quality and greenhouse gas emission impacts and other potential cumulative impacts that might be associated with the construction the proposed project.

**C. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?**

**Potentially Significant Impact:** The proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts regarding air quality, water quality and noise which could have adverse impacts on human beings. The EIR would evaluate the potential for impacts to the environment to result in adverse effects to human beings.

## **SECTION 5.0 REFERENCES**

California Department Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database, Accessed April 2018.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Scenic Highways Program Web Site Access, April 2018.

California Environmental Quality Act. 2018.

California Geologic Survey Seismic Hazard Zone Map Prado Dam Quadrangles Accessed April 2018.

California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants Database, Accessed April 2018.

City of Orange General Plan accessed 2018.

SENT VIA USPS AND E-MAIL:

July 26, 2018

[dbott@ocwd.com](mailto:dbott@ocwd.com)

Daniel Bott, Principal Planner  
Orange County Water District  
18700 Ward St  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the  
Smith Basin Improvement Project**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. SCAQMD staff's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the Proposed Project that should be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Please send SCAQMD a copy of the DEIR upon its completion. Note that copies of the DEIR that are submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded to SCAQMD. Please forward a copy of the DEIR directly to SCAQMD at the address shown in the letterhead. **In addition, please send with the DEIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality, health risk, and greenhouse gas analyses and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files<sup>1</sup>. These include emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling input and output files (not PDF files). Without all files and supporting documentation, SCAQMD staff will be unable to complete our review of the air quality analyses in a timely manner. Any delays in providing all supporting documentation will require additional time for review beyond the end of the comment period.**

**Air Quality Analysis**

SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. SCAQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis. Copies of the Handbook are available from SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. More guidance developed since this Handbook is also available on SCAQMD's website at: [http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-\(1993\)](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-(1993)). SCAQMD staff also recommends that the Lead Agency use the CalEEMod land use emissions software. This software has recently been updated to incorporate up-to-date state and locally approved emission factors and methodologies for estimating pollutant emissions from typical land use development. CalEEMod is the only software model maintained by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and replaces the now outdated URBEMIS. This model is available free of charge at: [www.caleemod.com](http://www.caleemod.com).

SCAQMD has also developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. SCAQMD staff requests that the Lead Agency quantify criteria pollutant emissions and compare the results to SCAQMD's CEQA regional pollutant emissions significance thresholds to determine air quality impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15174, the information contained in a DEIR shall include summarized technical data, maps, plot plans, diagrams, and similar relevant information sufficient to permit full assessment of significant environmental impacts by reviewing agencies and members of the public. Placement of highly technical and specialized analysis and data in the body of an DEIR should be avoided through inclusion of supporting information and analyses as appendices to the main body of the DEIR. Appendices to the DEIR may be prepared in volumes separate from the basic DEIR document, but shall be readily available for public examination and shall be submitted to all clearinghouses which assist in public review.

SCAQMD's CEQA regional pollutant emissions significance thresholds can be found here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf>. In addition to analyzing regional air quality impacts, SCAQMD staff recommends calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing the results to localized significance thresholds (LSTs). LSTs can be used in addition to the recommended regional significance thresholds as a second indication of air quality impacts when preparing a CEQA document. Therefore, when preparing the air quality analysis for the Proposed Project, it is recommended that the Lead Agency perform a localized analysis by either using the LSTs developed by SCAQMD staff or performing dispersion modeling as necessary. Guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/localized-significance-thresholds>.

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the Proposed Project and all air pollutant sources related to the Proposed Project. Air quality impacts from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, such as sources that generate or attract vehicular trips, should be included in the analysis.

In the event that the Proposed Project generates or attracts vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, it is recommended that the Lead Agency perform a mobile source health risk assessment. Guidance for performing a mobile source health risk assessment ("*Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis*") can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mobile-source-toxics-analysis>. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

In addition, guidance on siting incompatible land uses (such as placing homes near freeways) can be found in the California Air Resources Board's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*, which can be found at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>. CARB's Land Use Handbook is a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process. Guidance<sup>2</sup> on strategies to reduce air pollution exposure near high-volume roadways can be found at: [https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/rd\\_technical\\_advisory\\_final.PDF](https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/rd_technical_advisory_final.PDF).

### **Mitigation Measures**

In the event that the Proposed Project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize these impacts. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed. Several resources are available to assist the Lead Agency with identifying potential mitigation measures for the Proposed Project, including:

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<sup>2</sup> In April 2017, CARB published a technical advisory, *Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution Exposure Near High-Volume Roadways: Technical Advisory*, to supplement CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*. This technical advisory is intended to provide information on strategies to reduce exposures to traffic emissions near high-volume roadways to assist land use planning and decision-making in order to protect public health and promote equity and environmental justice. The technical advisory is available at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/landuse.htm>.

- Chapter 11- Mitigating the Impact of a Project, of SCAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook
- SCAQMD's CEQA web pages available here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mitigation-measures-and-control-efficiencies>
- SCAQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook for controlling construction-related emissions and Rule 1403 – Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities
- SCAQMD's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (2016 AQMP) available here (starting on page 86): <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/Agendas/Governing-Board/2017/2017-mar3-035.pdf>
- CAPCOA's *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* available here: <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>

### **Alternatives**

In the event that the Proposed Project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires the consideration and discussion of alternatives to the project or its location which are capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any of the significant effects of the project. The discussion of a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives, including a “no project” alternative, is intended to foster informed decision-making and public participation. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(d), the DEIR shall include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the Proposed Project.

### **Permits**

In the event that the Proposed Project requires a permit from SCAQMD, SCAQMD should be identified as a responsible agency for the Proposed Project. For more information on permits, please visit SCAQMD webpage at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/permits>. Questions on permits can be directed to SCAQMD's Engineering and Permitting staff at (909) 396-3385.

### **Data Sources**

SCAQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available at SCAQMD's webpage at: <http://www.aqmd.gov>.

SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project air quality impacts are accurately evaluated and any significant impacts are mitigated where feasible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Robert Dalbeck, Assistant Air Quality Specialist, at [rdalbeck@aqmd.gov](mailto:rdalbeck@aqmd.gov).

Sincerely,

*Daniel Garcia*

Daniel Garcia  
Program Supervisor  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

DG/RD  
ORC180626-01  
Control Number





State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
South Coast Region  
3883 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 467-4201  
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



July 24, 2018

Mr. Daniel Bott  
Orange County Water District  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
DBott@ocwd.com

**Subject: Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Smith Basin Improvement Project, Orange, CA (SCH# 2018061058)**

Dear Mr. Bott:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Smith Basin Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). The following statements and comments have been prepared pursuant to the Department's authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project (California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines § 15386) and pursuant to our authority as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Guidelines section 15381 over those aspects of the proposed project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code § 2050 *et seq.*) and Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.* The Department also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning program.

The project proposes to repair and prevent future erosion in Smith Basin through the realignment and/or the reinforcement of Santiago Creek, which flows into the basin. The project area is located in the City of Orange, north of Villa Park Road, between Lemon Street and Santiago Boulevard. Native riparian and coastal sage scrub communities persist within the project area, and the NOP notes that least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; endangered under CESA and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)), and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*; a state species of special concern and ESA listed-threatened) have been observed during on-site biological surveys (page 4-4).

The Department offers the following comments and recommendations to assist the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in avoiding or minimizing potential project impacts on biological resources.

**Specific Comments**

1. The NOP describes two alternatives for erosion repair and prevention in Smith Basin: Alternative 1 would realign Santiago Creek to its original pre-1980 alignment, while Alternative 2 would reinforce the existing alignment with additional fill and rip-rap at the toe of the slope (pages 2.1-2.2). The Department supports the realignment proposed in Alternative 1, which would require fewer structural reinforcements to prevent additional erosion, provide a more natural aesthetic, and potentially foster a higher quality of riparian and upland habitats.



The Department has regulatory authority over activities in streams and/or lakes that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of any river, stream, or lake or use material from a river, stream, or lake. For any such activities, the project applicant (or "entity") must provide written notification to the Department pursuant to section 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code. The Department's issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a Responsible Agency. The Department as a Responsible Agency under CEQA may consider the local jurisdiction's (lead agency) Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report for the project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department pursuant to section 1600 *et seq.* and/or under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to the riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSAA.<sup>1</sup>

2. Additionally, the NOP notes that least Bell's vireo and coastal California gnatcatcher have been observed during on-site biological surveys (page 4-4). Foremost, the Department encourages avoidance of impacts to these species. Any adverse impacts to least Bell's vireo, for the purposes of CEQA, are considered significant without mitigation. As to CESA, take of any endangered, threatened, or candidate species that results from the project is prohibited, except as authorized by state law (Fish and Game Code, §§ 2080, 2085). Consequently, if the project, project construction, or any project-related activity during the life of the project will result in take of a species designated as endangered or threatened, or a candidate for listing under CESA, the Department recommends that the project proponent seek appropriate take authorization under CESA prior to implementing the project. Appropriate authorization from the Department may include an incidental take permit (ITP) or a consistency determination in certain circumstances, among other options (Fish and Game Code §§ 2080.1, 2081, subds. (b),(c)). Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of an ITP unless the project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to CESA-listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of an ITP. For these reasons, biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA ITP.

The Department also encourages the OCWD to consult as soon as possible with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in order to appropriately address impacts to least Bell's vireo and coastal California gnatcatcher.

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<sup>1</sup> A notification package for an LSAA may be obtained by accessing the Department's web site at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA).



## **General Comments**

1. The Department has responsibility for wetland and riparian habitats. It is the policy of the Department to strongly discourage development in wetlands or conversion of wetlands to uplands. We oppose any development or conversion that would result in a reduction of wetland acreage or wetland habitat values, unless, at a minimum, project mitigation assures there will be "no net loss" of either wetland habitat values or acreage. Development and conversion include but are not limited to conversion to subsurface drains, placement of fill or building of structures within the wetland, and channelization or removal of materials from the streambed. All wetlands and watercourses, whether ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial, should be retained and provided with substantial setbacks that preserve the riparian and aquatic values and maintain their value to on-site and off-site wildlife populations. Mitigation measures to compensate for impacts to mature riparian corridors must be included in the DEIR and must compensate for the loss of function and value of a wildlife corridor.
2. To enable the Department to adequately review and comment on the proposed project from the standpoint of the protection of plants, fish, and wildlife, we recommend the following information be included in the DEIR.
  - a) The document should contain a complete discussion of the purpose and need for, and description of, the proposed project, including all staging areas and access routes to the construction and staging areas.
  - b) A range of feasible alternatives should be included to ensure that alternatives to the proposed project are fully considered and evaluated; the alternatives should avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. Specific alternative locations should be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate.

## **Biological Resources within the Project's Area of Potential Effect**

3. The document should provide a complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, sensitive, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats. This should include a complete floral and faunal species compendium of the entire project site, undertaken at the appropriate time of year. The DEIR should include the following information.
  - a) CEQA Guidelines, section 15125(c), specifies that knowledge on the regional setting is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts and that special emphasis should be placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region.
  - b) A thorough, recent floristic-based assessment of special status plants and natural communities, following the Department's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (see <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Plants/Info>). The Department recommends that floristic, alliance-based and/or association-based mapping and vegetation impact assessments be conducted at the Project site and neighboring vicinity. The Manual of



California Vegetation, second edition, should also be used to inform this mapping and assessment (Sawyer et al. 2009<sup>2</sup>). Adjoining habitat areas should be included in this assessment where site activities could lead to direct or indirect impacts offsite. Habitat mapping at the alliance level will help establish baseline vegetation conditions.

- c) A current inventory of the biological resources associated with each habitat type on site and within the area of potential effect. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/biogeodata/](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/biogeodata/) to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the Fish and Game Code.
- d) An inventory of rare, threatened, endangered and other sensitive species on site and within the area of potential effect. Species to be addressed should include all those which meet the CEQA definition (see CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). This should include sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### Analyses of the Potential Project-Related Impacts on the Biological Resources

- 5. To provide a thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts, the following should be addressed in the DEIR.
  - a) A discussion of potential adverse impacts from lighting, noise, human activity, exotic species, and drainage should also be included. The latter subject should address: project-related changes on drainage patterns on and downstream of the project site; the volume, velocity, and frequency of existing and post-project surface flows; polluted runoff; soil erosion and/or sedimentation in streams and water bodies; and post-project fate of runoff from the project site. The discussions should also address the proximity of the extraction activities to the water table, whether dewatering would be necessary, and the potential resulting impacts on the habitat, if any, supported by the groundwater. Mitigation measures proposed to alleviate such impacts should be included.
  - b) Discussions regarding indirect project impacts on biological resources, including resources in nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed or existing reserve lands. Impacts on, and maintenance of, wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitats in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated in the DEIR.

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<sup>2</sup> Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf and J.M. Evens. 2009. A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition. California Native Plant Society Press, Sacramento.



- c) The zoning of areas for development projects or other uses that are nearby or adjacent to natural areas may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the environmental document.
- d) A cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines, section 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats.

#### Mitigation for the Project-related Biological Impacts

- 6. The DEIR should include measures to fully avoid and otherwise protect Rare Natural Communities from project-related impacts. The Department considers these communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance.
- 7. The DEIR should include mitigation measures for adverse project-related impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats. Mitigation measures should emphasize avoidance and reduction of project impacts. For unavoidable impacts, on-site habitat restoration or enhancement should be discussed in detail. If on-site mitigation is not feasible or would not be biologically viable and therefore not adequately mitigate the loss of biological functions and values, off-site mitigation through habitat creation and/or acquisition and preservation in perpetuity should be addressed.
- 8. For proposed preservation and/or restoration, the DEIR should include measures to perpetually protect the targeted habitat values from direct and indirect negative impacts. The objective should be to offset the project-induced qualitative and quantitative losses of wildlife habitat values. Issues that should be addressed include restrictions on access, proposed land dedications, monitoring and management programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, increased human intrusion, etc.
- 9. The Department recommends that measures be taken to avoid project impacts to nesting birds. Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (Title 50, § 10.13, Code of Federal Regulations). Sections 3503.5 and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of all raptors and other migratory nongame birds and section 3503 prohibits take of the nests and eggs of all birds. Proposed project activities (including, but not limited to, staging and disturbances to native and nonnative vegetation, structures, and substrates) should occur outside of the avian breeding season which generally runs from February 1-September 1 (as early as January 1 for some raptors) to avoid take of birds or their eggs. If avoidance of the avian breeding season is not feasible, the Department recommends surveys by a qualified biologist with experience in conducting breeding bird surveys to detect protected native birds occurring in suitable nesting habitat that is to be disturbed and (as access to adjacent areas allows) any other such habitat within 300 feet of the disturbance area (within 500 feet for raptors). Project personnel, including all contractors working on site, should be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. Reductions in the nest buffer distance may be appropriate depending on the avian species involved, ambient levels of human activity, screening vegetation, or possibly other factors.



10. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.
11. Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in southern California ecosystems and native plant revegetation techniques. Each plan should include, at a minimum: (a) the location of the mitigation site; (b) the plant species to be used, container sizes, and seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) planting schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation on site; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for conservation of the mitigation site in perpetuity.
12. The Polyphagous and Kuroshio shot hole borers (ISHBs) are invasive ambrosia beetles that introduce fungi and other pathogens into host trees. The adult female (1.8-2.5 mm long) tunnels galleries into the cambium of a wide variety of host trees, where it lays its eggs and propagates the *Fusarium* fungi species for the express purpose of feeding its young. These fungi cause *Fusarium* dieback disease, which interrupts the transport of water and nutrients in at least 58 reproductive host tree species, with impacts to other host tree species as well. With documented occurrences in Santiago Oaks Regional Park, 2.35 miles northeast of the project site, the spread of invasive shot hole borers (ISHBs) could have significant impacts in local ecosystems. Therefore, with regard to ISHBs, we recommend the DEIR include the following:
  - a. a thorough discussion of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that could occur from the potential spread of ISHBs as a result of proposed activities in the DEIR;
  - b. an analysis of the likelihood of the spread of ISHBs as a result of the invasive species' proximity to above referenced activities;
  - c. figures that depict potentially sensitive or susceptible vegetation communities within the project area, the known occurrences of ISHB within the project area (if any), and ISHB's proximity to above referenced activities; and
  - d. a mitigation measure or measure(s) within the DEIR that describe Best Management Practices (BMPs) that bring impacts of the project on the spread of ISHB below a level of significance. Examples of such BMPs include:
    - i. education of on-site workers regarding ISHB and its spread;
    - ii. reporting sign of ISHB infestation, including sugary exudate ("weeping") on trunks or branches and ISHB entry/exit-holes (about the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen), to the Department and UCR's Eskalen Lab;
    - iii. equipment disinfection;
    - iv. pruning infected limbs in infested areas where project activities may occur;
    - v. avoidance and minimization of transport of potential host tree materials;
    - vi. chipping potential host materials to less than 1 inch and solarization, prior to delivering to a landfill;

Mr. Daniel Bott  
Orange County Water District  
July 24, 2018  
Page 7 of 7

- vii. chipping potential host materials to less than 1 inch, and solarization, prior to composting on-site;
- viii. solarization of cut logs; and/or
- ix. burning of potential host tree materials.

Please refer to UCR's Eskalen lab website for more information regarding ISHBs:  
<http://eskalenlab.ucr.edu/pshb.html>.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the referenced NOP. Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Environmental Scientist Jennifer Turner at (858-467-2717) or via email at [jennifer.turner@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:jennifer.turner@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gail K. Sevens', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gail K. Sevens  
Environmental Program Manager  
South Coast Region

ec: Christine Medak (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)  
Scott Morgan (State Clearinghouse)





# CITY OF ORANGE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

[www.cityoforange.org](http://www.cityoforange.org)

ORANGE CIVIC CENTER • 300 E. CHAPMAN AVENUE • ORANGE, CA 92866-1591 • P.O. BOX 449

ADMINISTRATION  
(714) 744-7240  
fax: (714) 744-7222

PLANNING DIVISION  
(714) 744-7220  
fax: (714) 744-7222

BUILDING DIVISION  
(714) 744-7200  
fax: (714) 744-7245

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
(714) 744-7244  
fax: (714) 744-7245

July 26, 2018

#21-42

Daniel Bott  
Orange County Water District  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

sent via email: [dbott@ocwd.com](mailto:dbott@ocwd.com)

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Smith Basin Improvement Project**

Dear Mr. Bott:

Thank you for providing the City of Orange (City) with the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Smith Basin Improvement Project in the City of Orange. The project site is an existing Orange County Water District (OCWD) groundwater management basin located on the north side of Villa Park Road, generally between Lemon Street and Santiago Boulevard. The project proposes two potential remedial grading alternatives to stabilize the slope embankments at Smith Basin.

The project site is located within the City of Orange along Santiago Creek. Due to the site's location within Orange, the City has an interest in ensuring that the Draft EIR addresses potential adverse impacts to Orange residents and infrastructure. As such, we offer the following comment:

- The proposed project site is located adjacent to single-family residential uses. The City requests that the Draft EIR identifies all feasible mitigation measures to reduce and minimize construction noise impacts and vibrations to Orange.
- The City requests the Draft EIR identify City streets, bike lanes and trails that would be affected by project construction and describe the nature and extent of the disruption. There is an existing Class II bikeway that runs both east and westbound along Villa Park Road and an existing Class I bikeway that runs on the west side of Hewes Street before turning east onto the north side of Villa Park Road. The City requests the Draft EIR describe any street or lane closures or detours and evaluate the impact of redistribution of traffic on adjacent local streets during construction. Any

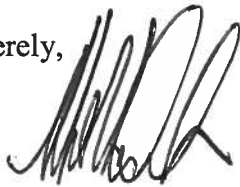


haul routes or detour routes should avoid residential neighborhoods and other sensitive use areas.

- Per the Plan for Recreational Trails and Bikeways in the Circulation Element of the City of Orange's General Plan, there is a proposed Class I bikeway that will run along the project site from the southwestern corner to the northeastern corner (Figure CM-3 of the Circulation Element). The City requests the Draft EIR describe any impact to the future development of the Class I bikeway.

The City appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NOP and we look forward to reviewing the Draft EIR upon completion. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Brodtkin, Associate Planner with the City of Orange, at (714) 744-7238 or at [abrodtkin@cityoforange.org](mailto:abrodtkin@cityoforange.org).

Sincerely,



William R. Crouch, AICP, AIA, NCARB, LEED (AP)  
Community Development Director

cc: Rick Otto, City Manager, City of Orange  
Anna Pehoushek, Assistant Community Development Director, City of Orange  
Chad Ortlieb, Senior Planner, City of Orange

July 24, 2018

NCL-18-044

Daniel Bott  
Principal Planner  
Orange County Water District  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA, 92708

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report – Smith Basin Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Bott:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Smith Basin Improvement Project. The County of Orange offers the following comments for your consideration.

**OC Environmental Resources**

1. The discussion on Hydrology and Water Quality (Section 4.9) should clarify whether or not the project qualifies as a Priority Development Project under the city's municipal stormwater permit (Board Order R8-2009-0030), thereby requiring preparation of a Priority Project Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), or instead is a Non-Priority Project which would require preparation of a Non-Priority Project WQMP.

**Operations and Maintenance**

1. Page 2-1, Existing Setting section, 1st paragraph:  
Typographical Error – spelling  
"The basin **contains** California coastal sage habitat..."
2. Page 2-1, Existing Setting section, 2nd paragraph, 4th sentence from end:  
Typographical Error - Missing comma.  
"As shown in Figure 2, a total..."
3. Page 2-2, 1st paragraph 4:  
Typographical Error - missing comma  
"With relocating the creek to its original alignment, no rip rap..."
4. Page 2-2, 1st paragraph, last sentence:  
Typographical Error - spelling  
"...the grading **activities** would..."

5. Page 2-2, last paragraph, 2nd to last sentence:  
Typographical Error - capitalization  
"Under Alternative 2, there would..."

**OC Infrastructure Programs /Flood Programs/Hydrology**

1. It appears the north-west side of the proposed project area is adjacent to Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) facility, the Santiago Creek Channel (facility No. E08). The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) should identify and depict on exhibits all regional and sub-regional drainage facilities that could potentially be impacted by the proposed project. Please refer to the Basemaps that show OCFCD facilities. They are available on our website:  
<http://www.ocflood.com/civica3/filebank/blobdownload.aspx?BlobID=32717>.
2. Prior to the commencement of any work within OCFCD and/or County of Orange right-of-way (fee owned or subject to easement), an encroachment permit would be required to be filed with OCPW/County Property Permits. Information regarding permit application is available from our website of OC Development Services  
<http://www.ocgov.com/gov/pw/ds/> .  
In addition, all work (if any) within OCFCD right-of-way should be performed so as not to adversely impact channel's structural integrity, hydraulic flow conditions, access and maintainability of the Santiago Creek, especially areas 3, 4, and 5 as shown in the Initial Study, Figure 1.
3. The first page of the Notice of Preparation reads: "The Orange County as the Lead Agency will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Smith Basin Improvement Project." Please correct the lead agency's name as the Orange County Water District.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Cindy Salazar at (714) 667-8870 in OC Development Services.

Sincerely,



Richard Vuong, Manager, Planning Division  
OC Public Works Service Area/OC Development Services  
300 North Flower Street  
Santa Ana, California 92702-4048  
[Richard.Vuong@ocpw.ocgov.com](mailto:Richard.Vuong@ocpw.ocgov.com)

cc: Chris Crompton, North OC Watershed Management Area  
AJ Jaime, Maintenance Programs  
Penny Lew, OC Flood Programs/Hydrology & Floodplain Management  
Anna Brzezicki, OC Flood Programs/Hydrology & Floodplain Management



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH



KEN ALEX  
DIRECTOR

**Notice of Preparation**

June 26, 2018

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Smith Basin Improvement Project  
SCH# 2018061058

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Smith Basin Improvement Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

**Daniel Bott**  
**Orange County Water District**  
**18700 Ward Street**  
**Fountain Valley, CA 92708**

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachments  
cc: Lead Agency

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2018061058  
**Project Title** Smith Basin Improvement Project  
**Lead Agency** Orange County Water District

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**Type** NOP Notice of Preparation  
**Description** The proposed project involves improvements to increase the geotechnical stability of embankment slopes within Smith Basin. Portions of the embankment slopes have experienced varied amounts of erosion from seasonal water runoff, major flood events and water impoundment.

---

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Daniel Bott  
**Agency** Orange County Water District  
**Phone** 714-378-3256 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 18700 Ward Street  
**City** Fountain Valley **State** CA **Zip** 92708

---

**Project Location**

**County** Orange  
**City** Orange  
**Region**  
**Cross Streets** Villa Park Road and Cannon Street  
**Lat / Long** 33° 48' 40" N / 117° 48' 05" W  
**Parcel No.**  
**Township** 4S **Range** 9W **Section** **Base** Orange

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**Proximity to:**

**Highways**  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways** Santiago Creek  
**Schools**  
**Land Use** Open Space/Open Space

---

**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wetland/Riparian

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**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Delta Protection Commission; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5; Office of Emergency Services, California; Native American Heritage Commission; Caltrans, District 12; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 8

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**Date Received** 06/26/2018 **Start of Review** 06/26/2018 **End of Review** 07/25/2018

**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH 2018061058

**Project Title:** Smith Basin Improvement Project**Lead Agency:** Orange County Water District**Contact Person:** Daniel Bott**Mailing Address:** 18700 Ward Street**Phone:** 714 378-3256**City:** Fountain Valley**Zip:** 92708**County:** Orange**Project Location:** County: OrangeCity/Nearest Community: Orange**Cross Streets:** Villa Park Road and Cannon Street**Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_**Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds):** 117 ° 48 ' 05 " N / 33 ° 48 ' 40 " W **Total Acres:** 39**Assessor's Parcel No.:** \_\_\_\_\_**Section:** ?**Twp.:** T4S**Range:** R9W**Base:** Orange**Within 2 Miles:** \_\_\_\_\_**State Hwy #:** \_\_\_\_\_**Waterways:** Santiago Creek**Airports:** \_\_\_\_\_**Railways:** \_\_\_\_\_**Schools:** \_\_\_\_\_**Document Type:****CEQA:** ☒ **NOP**☐ **Early Cons**☐ **Neg Dec**☐ **Mit Neg Dec**☐ **Draft EIR**☐ **Supplement/Subsequent EIR**

(Prior SCH No.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_**NEPA:**☐ **NOI**☐ **EA**☐ **Draft EIS**☐ **FONSI****Other:**☐ **Joint Document**☐ **Final Document**☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_**Local Action Type:**☐ **General Plan Update**☐ **General Plan Amendment**☐ **General Plan Element**☐ **Community Plan**☐ **Specific Plan**☐ **Master Plan**☐ **Planned Unit Development**☐ **Site Plan****Governor's Office of Planning & Research**☐ **Rezone**☐ **Prezone**☐ **Use Permit**☐ **Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)**☐ **Annexation**☐ **Redevelopment**☐ **Coastal Permit**☒ **Other: Project Approval****Development Type:**☐ **Residential:** Units \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Office:** Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_

Employees \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Commercial:** Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_

Employees \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Industrial:** Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_

Employees \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Educational:** \_\_\_\_\_☐ **Recreational:** \_\_\_\_\_☐ **Water Facilities:** Type \_\_\_\_\_

MGD \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Transportation:** Type \_\_\_\_\_☐ **Mining:** Mineral \_\_\_\_\_☐ **Power:** Type \_\_\_\_\_

MW \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Waste Treatment:** Type \_\_\_\_\_

MGD \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Hazardous Waste:** Type \_\_\_\_\_☐ **Other:** Slope Improvement Project**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☒ **Aesthetic/Visual**☐ **Agricultural Land**☒ **Air Quality**☒ **Archeological/Historical**☒ **Biological Resources**☐ **Coastal Zone**☐ **Drainage/Absorption**☐ **Economic/Jobs**☐ **Fiscal**☐ **Flood Plain/Flooding**☐ **Forest Land/Fire Hazard**☒ **Geologic/Seismic**☐ **Minerals**☒ **Noise**☐ **Population/Housing Balance**☐ **Public Services/Facilities**☐ **Recreation/Parks**☐ **Schools/Universities**☐ **Septic Systems**☐ **Sewer Capacity**☒ **Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading**☐ **Solid Waste**☐ **Toxic/Hazardous**☒ **Traffic/Circulation**☒ **Vegetation**☒ **Water Quality**☐ **Water Supply/Groundwater**☒ **Wetland/Riparian**☐ **Growth Inducement**☐ **Land Use**☐ **Cumulative Effects**☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**Open Space/Open Space**Project Description:** *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The proposed project involves improvements to increase the geotechnical stability of embankment slopes within Smith Basin. Portions of the embankment slopes have experienced varied amounts of erosion from seasonal water runoff, major flood events and water impoundment.



# NOP Distribution List

MT

County: Yuma

SCH#

2018061058.

## Resources Agency

- ☒ **Resources Agency**  
Nadell Gayou
- ☐ **Dept. of Boating & Waterways**  
Denise Peterson
- ☐ **California Coastal Commission**  
Allyson Hitt
- ☐ **Colorado River Board**  
Elsa Contreras
- ☐ **Dept. of Conservation**  
Grina Chan
- ☐ **Cal Fire**  
Dan Foster
- ☐ **Central Valley Flood Protection Board**  
James Herola
- ☒ **Office of Historic Preservation**  
Ron Parsons
- ☐ **Dept of Parks & Recreation**  
Environmental Stewardship Section
- ☐ **S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.**  
Steve Goldbeck
- ☒ **Dept. of Water Resources**  
Resources Agency  
Nadell Gayou
- Fish and Game**
  - ☐ **Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**  
Scott Flint  
Environmental Services Division
  - ☐ **Fish & Wildlife Region 1**  
Curt Babcock
  - ☐ **Fish & Wildlife Region 1E**  
Laurie Harnsberger
  - ☐ **Fish & Wildlife Region 2**  
Jeff Drongesen
  - ☐ **Fish & Wildlife Region 3**  
Craig Weightman

- ☐ **Fish & Wildlife Region 4**  
Julie Vance
- ☒ **Fish & Wildlife Region 5**  
Leslie Newton-Reed  
Habitat Conservation Program
- ☐ **Fish & Wildlife Region 6**  
Tiffany Ellis  
Habitat Conservation Program
- ☐ **Fish & Wildlife Region 6 I/M**  
Heidi Calvert  
Inyo/Mono. Habitat Conservation Program
- ☐ **Dept. of Fish & Wildlife M**  
William Paznokas  
Marine Region
- Other Departments**
  - ☐ **California Department of Education**  
Lesley Taylor
  - ☒ **OES (Office of Emergency Services)**  
Monique Wilber
  - ☐ **Food & Agriculture**  
Sandra Schubert  
Dept. of Food and Agriculture
  - ☐ **Dept. of General Services**  
Cathy Buck  
Environmental Services Section
  - ☐ **Housing & Comm. Dev.**  
CEQA Coordinator  
Housing Policy Division
- Independent Commissions/Boards**
  - ☐ **Delta Protection Commission**  
Erik Vink
  - ☐ **Delta Stewardship Council**  
Anthony Navasero
  - ☐ **California Energy Commission**  
Eric Knight

- ☒ **Native American Heritage Comm.**  
Debbie Treadway
- ☐ **Public Utilities Commission**  
Supervisor
- ☐ **Santa Monica Bay Restoration**  
Guangyu Wang
- ☐ **State Lands Commission**  
Jennifer Deleong
- ☐ **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)**  
Cherry Jacques
- Cal State Transportation Agency CalSTA**
  - ☐ **Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics**  
Philip Crimmins
  - ☐ **Caltrans - Planning HQ LD-IGR**  
Christian Bushong
  - ☐ **California Highway Patrol**  
Suzann Ikeuchi  
Office of Special Projects
- Dept. of Transportation**
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 1**  
Rex Jackman
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 2**  
Marcelino Gonzalez
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 3**  
Susan Zanchi - North
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 4**  
Patricia Maurice
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 5**  
Larry Newland
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 6**  
Michael Navarro
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 7**  
Dianna Watson
  - ☐ **Caltrans, District 8**  
Mark Roberts

- ☐ **Caltrans, District 9**  
Gayle Rosander
- ☐ **Caltrans, District 10**  
Tom Dumas
- ☐ **Caltrans, District 11**  
Jacob Armstrong
- ☒ **Caltrans, District 12**  
Maureen El Harake
- Cal EPA**
  - ☐ **Air Resources Board**
  - ☐ **Airport & Freight**  
Jack Wursten
  - ☐ **Transportation Projects**  
Nesamani Kalandiyur
  - ☐ **Industrial/Energy Projects**  
Mike Tollstrup
  - ☐ **California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery**  
Kevin Taylor/Jeff Esquivel
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Regional Programs Unit  
Division of Financial Assistance
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Cindy Forbes - Asst Deputy  
Division of Drinking Water
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Div. Drinking Water # \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit  
Division of Water Quality
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Phil Crader  
Division of Water Rights
  - ☐ **Dept. of Toxic Substances Control Reg. # \_\_\_\_\_**  
CEQA Tracking Center
  - ☐ **Department of Pesticide Regulation**
- Air Resources Board**
  - ☐ **Transportation Projects**  
Nesamani Kalandiyur
  - ☐ **Industrial/Energy Projects**  
Mike Tollstrup
  - ☐ **California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery**  
Kevin Taylor/Jeff Esquivel
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Regional Programs Unit  
Division of Financial Assistance
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  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Div. Drinking Water # \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit  
Division of Water Quality
  - ☐ **State Water Resources Control Board**  
Phil Crader  
Division of Water Rights
  - ☐ **Dept. of Toxic Substances Control Reg. # \_\_\_\_\_**  
CEQA Tracking Center
  - ☐ **Department of Pesticide Regulation**

- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)**
  - ☐ **RWQCB 1**  
Cathleen Hudson  
North Coast Region (1)
  - ☐ **RWQCB 2**  
Environmental Document Coordinator  
San Francisco Bay Region (2)
  - ☐ **RWQCB 3**  
Central Coast Region (3)
  - ☐ **RWQCB 4**  
Teresa Rodgers  
Los Angeles Region (4)
  - ☐ **RWQCB 5S**  
Central Valley Region (5)
  - ☐ **RWQCB 5F**  
Central Valley Region (5)  
Fresno Branch Office
  - ☐ **RWQCB 5R**  
Central Valley Region (5)  
Redding Branch Office
  - ☐ **RWQCB 6**  
Lahontan Region (6)
  - ☐ **RWQCB 6V**  
Lahontan Region (6)  
Victorville Branch Office
  - ☐ **RWQCB 7**  
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
  - ☒ **RWQCB 8**  
Santa Ana Region (8)
  - ☐ **RWQCB 9**  
San Diego Region (9)
  - ☐ **Other** \_\_\_\_\_