

SCR-1 Enhancements The Need for Regional Leadership Comment Now!



Jim Danza M.S. AICP

Chair, Friends of the Santa Clara River



FRIENDS OF
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER



Friends of the Santa Clara River

■ Mission:

- ◆ Protect and preserve the cultural and biological resources of the Santa Clara River Watershed
- ◆ 501(c)(3) public interest organization formed in 1993
- ◆ Education and Access



Ethno-Botany Trail, Fillmore
Fish Hatchery

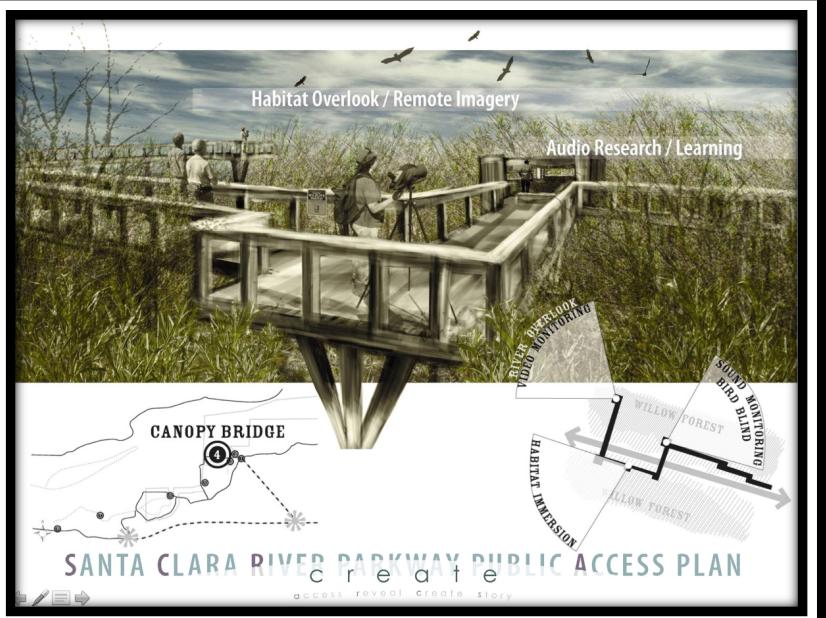


School Field Trip Programs

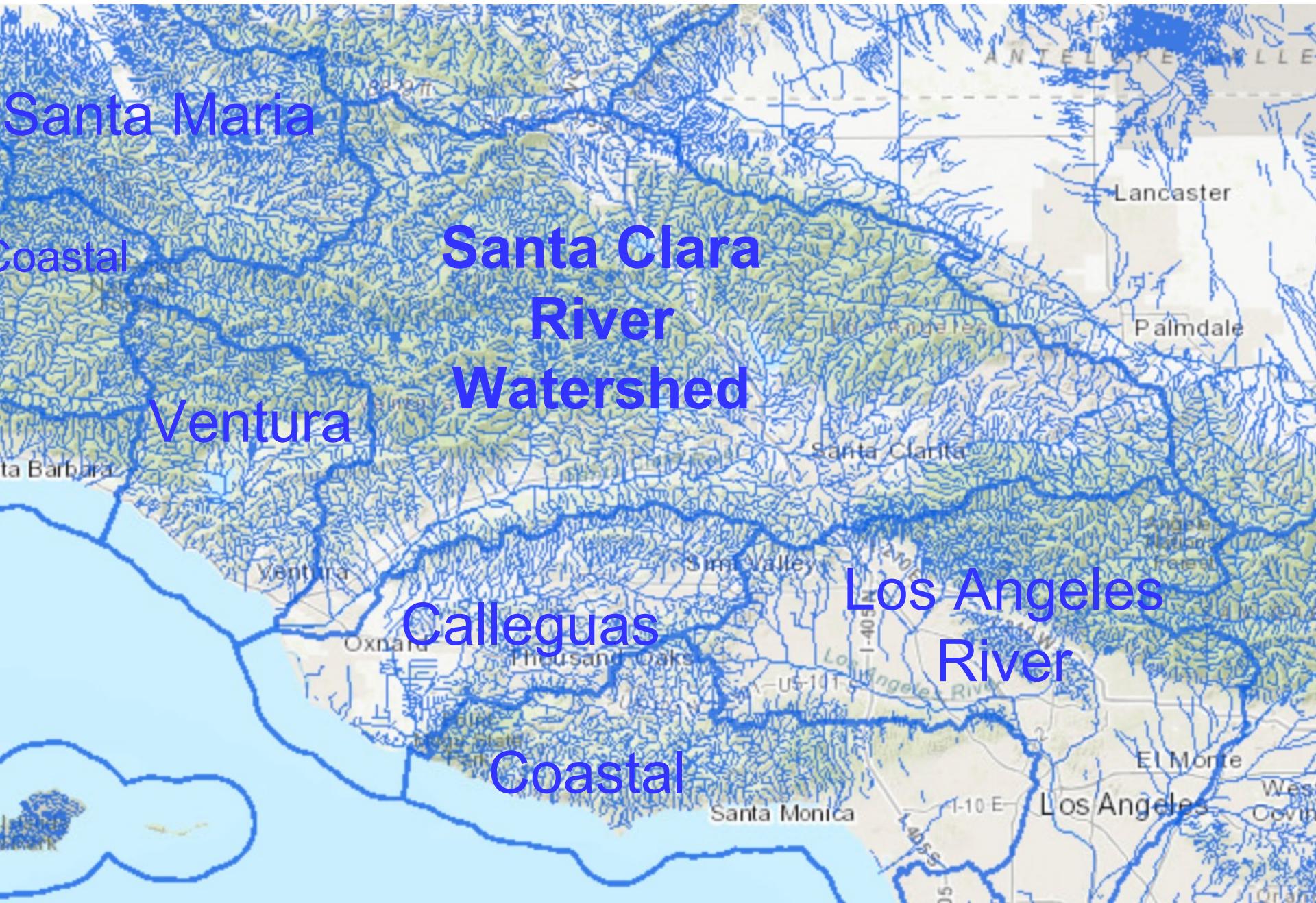


■ Agenda:

- ◆ River Issues Today
- ◆ The SCR-1 Project
- ◆ Can We Have Nice Things? The Betterments
- ◆ What We Need to Do



Among largest natural rivers in SoCal



The Santa Clara River: Issues



The Santa Clara River: Vision

Issue	Vision
Impacted Ecology	Restored Ecology
Trash	No Trash
Homelessness	Homefulness
Motorbikes and paintball	Motorbikes and paintball not in the river, in appropriate places
Depleted Water Source	Conserved Water
Lack of Bikeways, Education, Access	Make the river part of the community



The Santa Clara River: Status

Issue	Status
Impacted Ecology	Restoration underway in places
Trash	Clean-ups, Source reduction
Homelessness	Initiatives underway, need more
Motorbikes and paintball	Lack of control
Depleted Water Supply	Few initiatives underway
Lack of Bikeways, Education, Access	Lack of public spaces at river

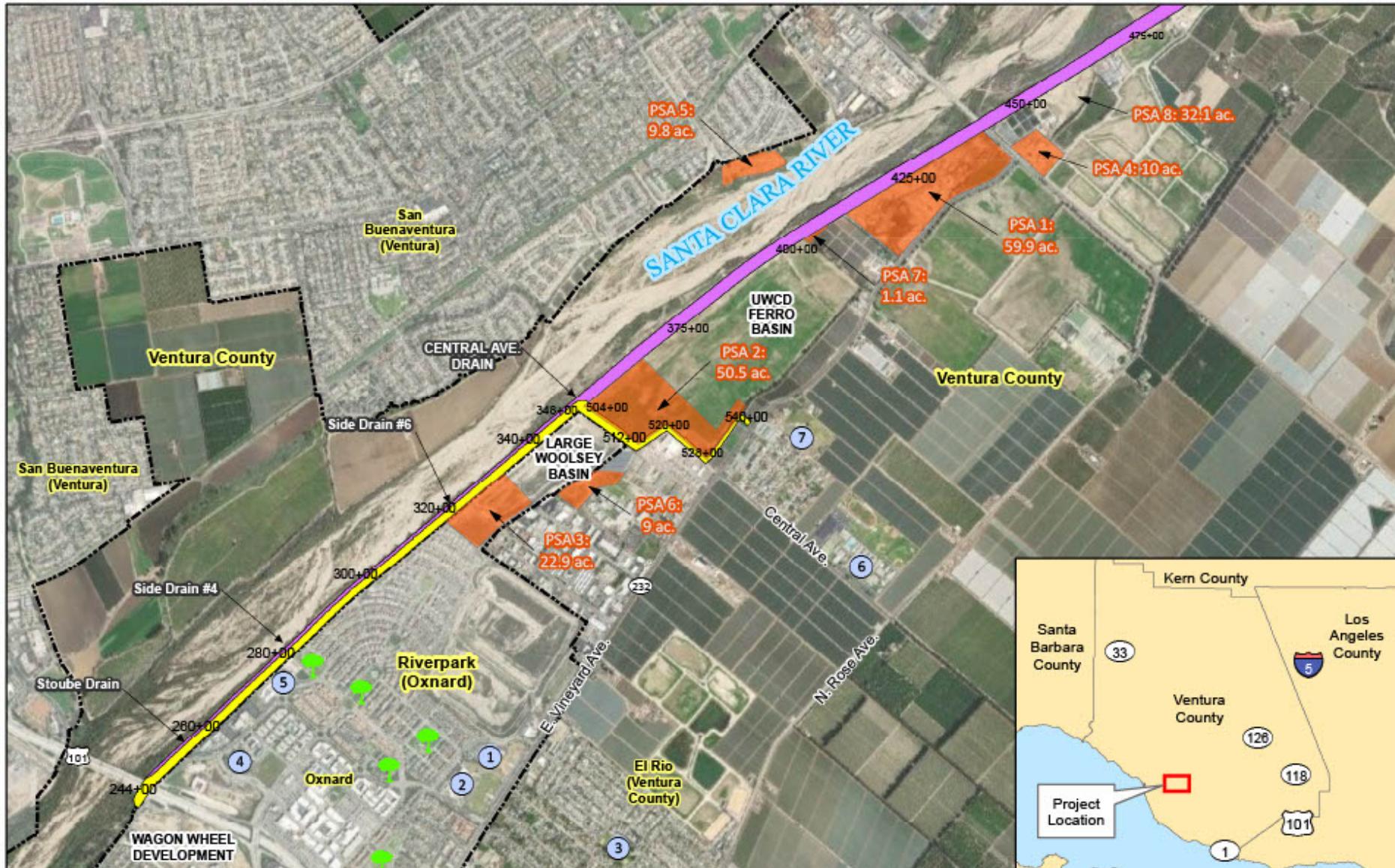


Santa Clara River in Oxnard



SCR-1 Project

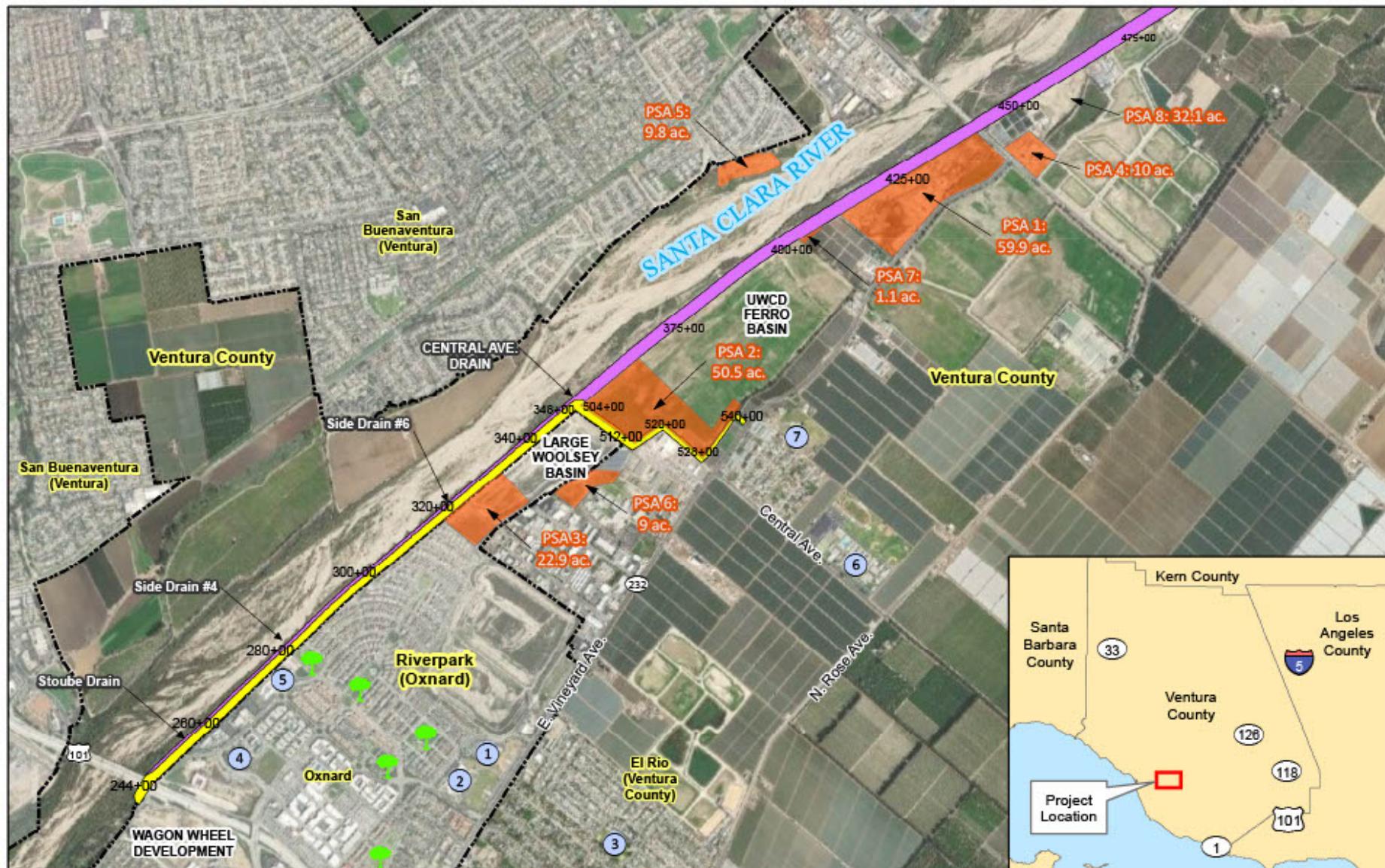
2.8 miles of levee rehab upstream (east) from Hwy 101 to near Central Av.



SCR-1 Project

According the VCWPD, existing levee is no longer certifiable





0.25 0 0.25 Miles

- Proposed Project Alignment
- Existing SCR-1 Levee
- Potential Staging Areas (PSA)
- City Boundary
- Park

Local Schools

- ① Rio Del Mar School
- ② Rio Vista Middle School
- ③ Rio Plaza Elementary School

4 National University

- ⑤ Rio Del Sol School
S.T.E.A.M. Academy
- ⑥ Rio Mesa High School
- ⑦ Linda Vista Adventist
Elementary School

Project Location

SCR-1 Project

Project hardens the sides of one of southern California's most natural rivers by turning the rock-lined slope into soil cement. First "concrete" to be added to the lower river.



Can We Have Nice Things?

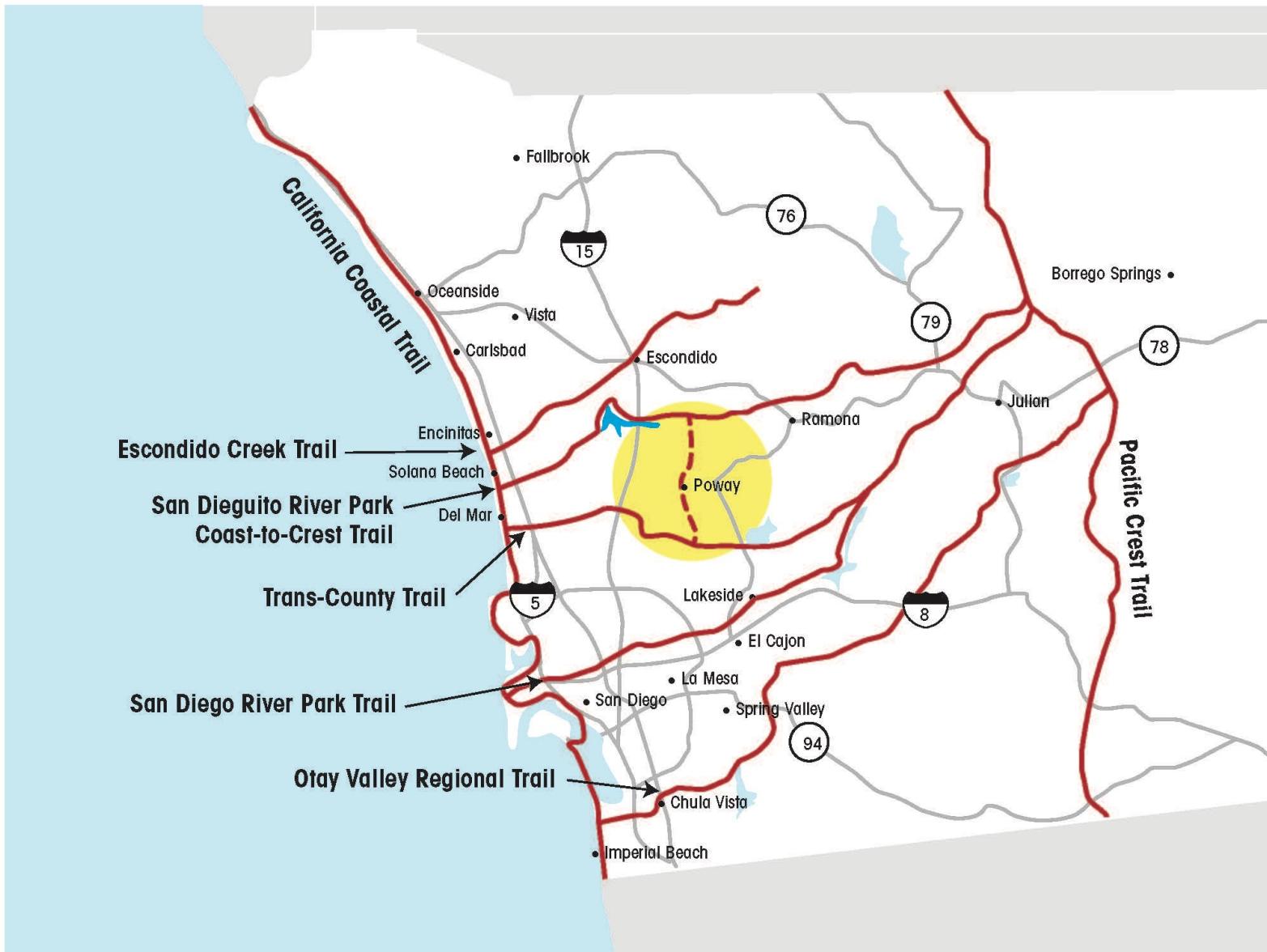


Castle Rock, WA

Bike Trails and Amenities are Commonly Constructed with Flood Projects



Other Counties San Diego Bike Trails



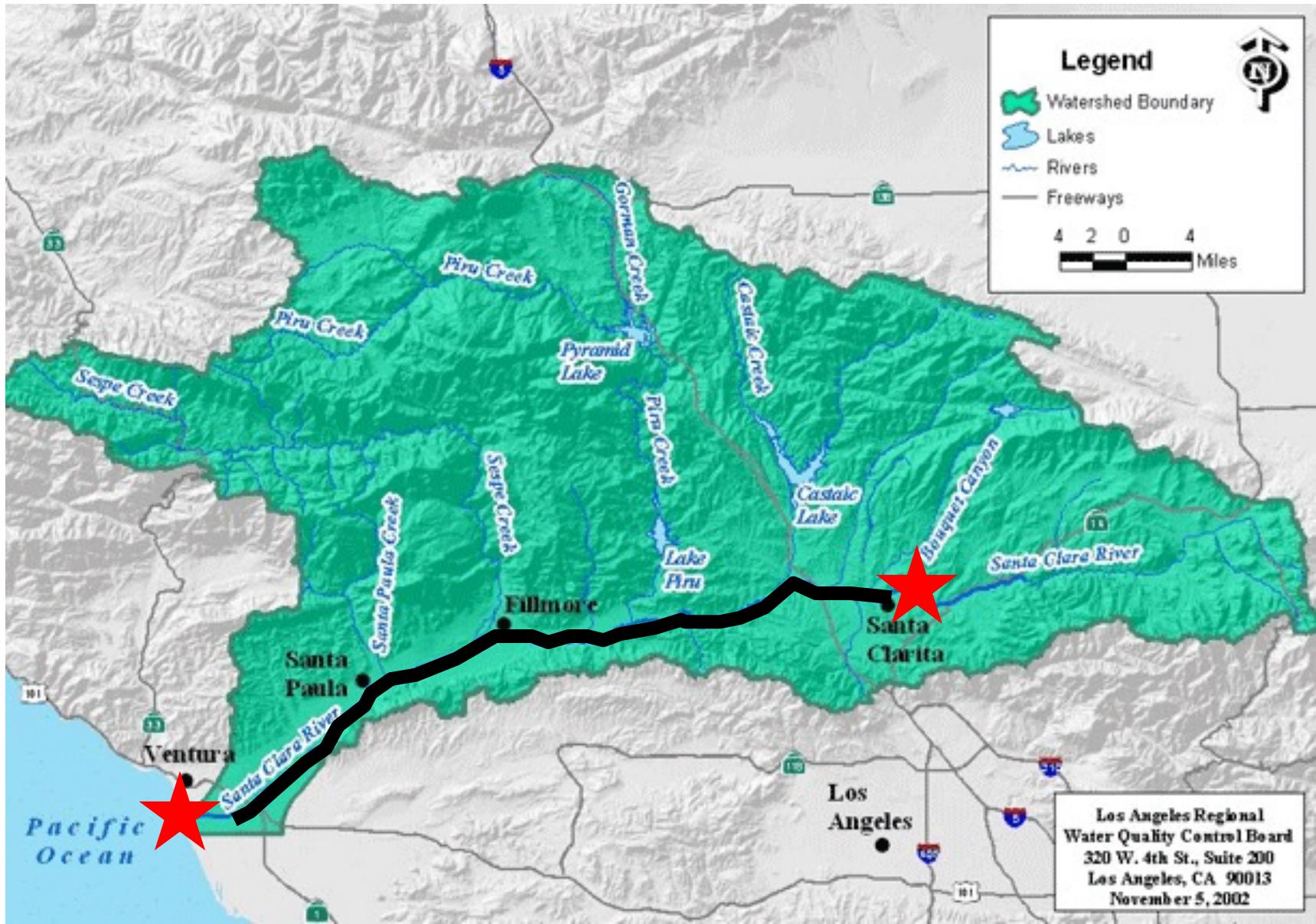
Other Counties

Los Angeles and Orange County Bike Trails



The Santa Clara River Today

Can I go in the river?



Ventura County

County Plan to Own and Maintain



Goal for SCR-1 Project



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- Encourage the integration of design features into flood control projects, when feasible: to address resource conservation and restoration and preservation of natural riparian habitats, to provide groundwater recharge, to enhance water quality, to protect scenic vistas, and to incorporate recreational areas or opportunities



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Climate Change and Community Health

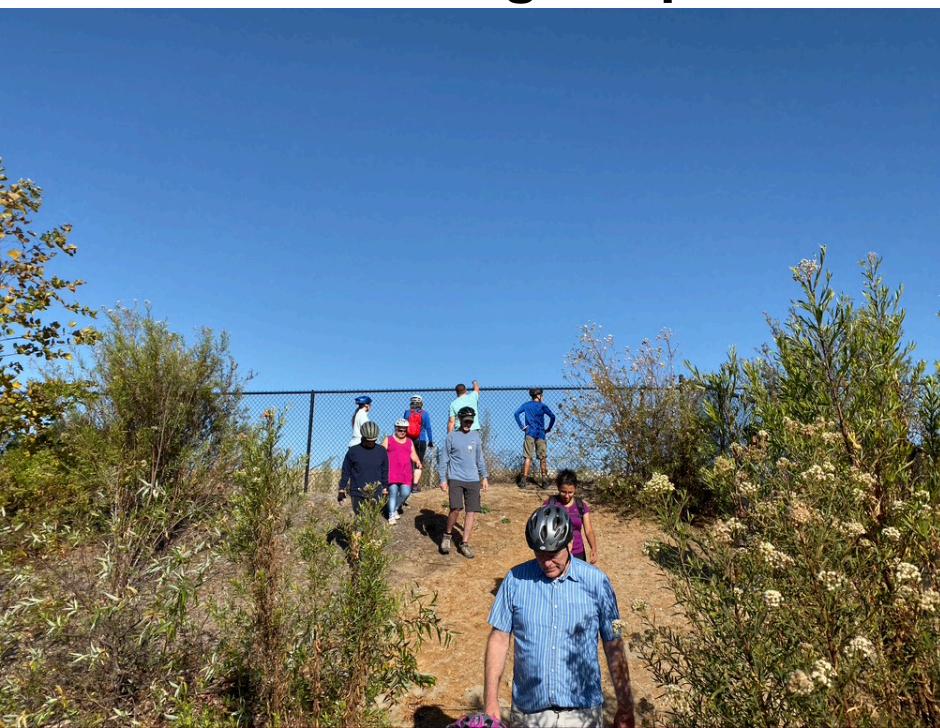
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions **Climate Emergency!**

Vegetation for Carbon Capture and Neighborhood Cooling

Air Quality

Communities with Amenities are Healthier, County Health Goals

- ◆ Community engagement
- ◆ Walkable/Opportunities for safe exercise
- ◆ Urban design impacts health - *American Planning Association*



Without River Knowledge...

How do we expect people to . . .

- Protect themselves from flooding
- Know their water source
- Understand farming issues
- Protect the environment
- Vote in their own interest



Ventura County Watershed Protection District

- ◆ SCR-1 Stakeholder Sub-Committees

A few of the invited participants:

- ◆ Neighborhood Cncl
- ◆ Property Owners/TNC
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ City of Oxnard
- ◆ US/CA Fish and Wildlife
- ◆ Coastal Conservancy
- ◆ Sierra Club
- ◆ FSCR



Stakeholder Committee Formed

SCR-1 Stakeholder Subgroups

Final output of each subgroups is needed by December 3, 2018 to ensure inclusion in the Section 408 60% submittal to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Output received after this date may not be included in the project design.

Levee Surface Design – Champion FOSCR		
Participants	Goal(s)	Schedule
Riverpark Neighborhood Council	Research and propose levee erosion control treatments that provide enhanced integrated watershed management principles as well as meet approval of regulatory agencies, including but not limited to: native habitat enhancement (flora and fauna), surface water infiltration, safety, and graffiti deterrent design.	Monthly meetings: June July August September October November
City of Oxnard		
CA Native Plant Society		
Ventura Audubon Society		
Lara Meeker – SCR Watershed Committee (as available)		
USFWS		
CDFW		
Sierra Club		
SWRCB Storm Water Planning Unit		
Tetra Tech		
Aspen Environmental Group	Identify funding for installation and long term maintenance	
Levee Trail – Champion City of Oxnard (Pending: Eric Humel – eric.humel@oxnard.org)		
Riverpark Neighborhood Council	Identify access points, locations for rest areas, amenities, signs, methods to avoid private property impacts, trash abatement, safety, reduce homeless conflicts, improve school and community access, avoid conflicts with District Operations and Maintenance activities, establish a flood closure procedure.	Monthly meetings: June July August September October November
City of Oxnard Police Department		
FOSCR		
State Coastal Conservancy		
Rio School District		
Lloyd-Butler Ranch		
Channel Islands Bike Club (Terry Spragg – cyclezealot@gmail.com)		
Ventura Bike Hub (Joey Juhasz-Lukomski – Joey@bikेवर्टुरा.org)		
Ventura County Transportation Commission (Steve DeGeorge – SDeGeorge@goventura.org ; Andrew Kent – Akent@goventura.org)	Identify funding for installation and long term maintenance	
Ventura Audubon Society		
CAUSE (Aracely Preciado)		
The Nature Conservancy (Kat Selim – kat.selim@tnc.org)		
Lara Meeker, SCRWC (as available)		
Sierra Club		
ASPEN		
Ventura County Stormwater Program		
Tetra Tech		
Protection for UWCD Spreading Grounds – Champion UWCD		
VCWPD		Monthly meetings:



Results of Committee's Hard Work

Santa Clara River Trail with Education Exhibits

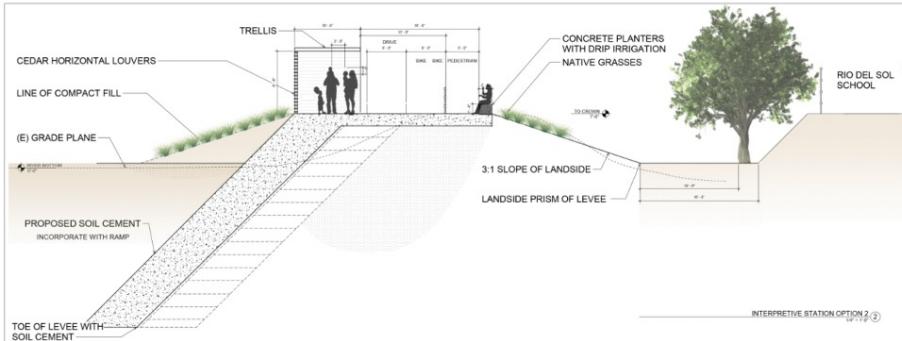


RIO DEL SOL GATEWAY TO LEVEE + INTERPRETIVE STATION #2

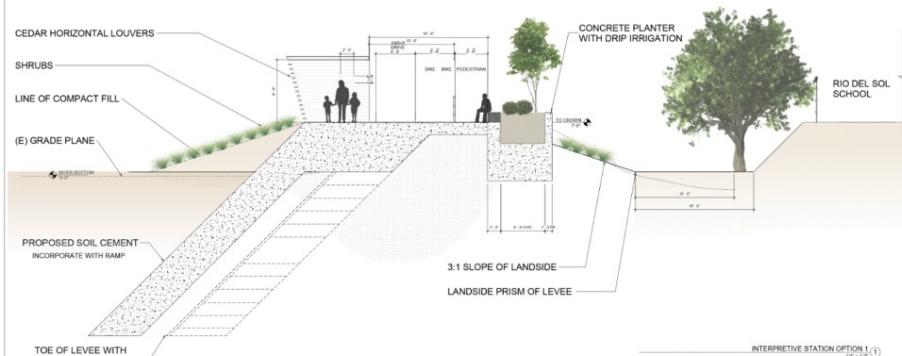


LEVEE TRAIL WITH ENGINEERED FILL + TREES

Project impacts could be mitigated and softened with “betterments”, such as soil cover with vegetation and a bikeway.



INTERPRETIVE STATION OPTION 2



INTERPRETIVE STATION OPTION 1



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM + INTERPRETIVE STATION #3



RIVER / RDS ENTRY GATEWAY

2018 Stakeholder Process Results

Stakeholder Process Overview

On track.

- **Goal 1:** Certify & Accredit SCR-1 Levee, Provide Flood Protection - i.e., base model no extras

Done.

- **Goal 2:** Efficiently Explore Feasibility of Desired Extras - Grant Expires July 2021

Done.

- **Stakeholder Role:** Your perspective is valuable! With your input, we can quickly screen feasibility of extras.
 - ❖ You may be asked to further research your ideas
 - ❖ Please commit to the process for continuity

Feasible!

- **District Role:** Explore feasible extras, which may become part of the project. Infeasible extras will not move forward

Write Sups!

- **Board Of Supervisors Role:** Makes the final decision to approve base project plus extras. Public benefit, feasibility, and cost are carefully considered.

Ventura County Trail Planning is Minimal



County is currently not prioritizing River Trail expansion in unincorporated county territory

Only a Few Cities have taken on biking trail expansion, such as Fillmore, Santa Paula, and Ventura.

Ventura Countywide Bicycle Master Plan (VCTC Oct 2007)

- **No River Trail, except segments along Santa Paula Branch Line**
- **Shows City of Ventura Olivas Park Drive trail to beach**
- **Out of date. This and other plans “encourage” expansion or “promote” a county bike network, ie County 2040 General Plan**

County Leadership Should...

- 1. Take full lead of planning, funding, and constructing, in conjunction of with local cities and other government organization**
- 2. Direct Watershed Protection District, Park and Recreation Dept, or other entity to make it happen**
- 3. Leverage all funding sources and methods, such as**
 - a. Levee Project Grants and Loans Federal and State Programs**
 - b. Coordination and partner with cities, state and federal, county health, philanthropy, and non-profit**
 - c. Consider County-wide Assessments**

Non-profits Can Assist!

Non-profit/Community/Orgs Potential Role:

- Adopt-a-trail, Trail Monitors
- River Clean-ups
- Restoration and Native Plant Gardens
- Lead education walks and bike rides



Non-profits Do Much of the
Hard Work, for free!



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Hard Work, for free!

County Gov is Empowered

Ventura County Watershed Protection Act California Water Code Appendix, Chapter 46.

district shall have...the following powers:

To acquire, **construct, maintain, operate, and install recreational facilities or landscaping within the district** ...in which the district **participates in the cost of construction, operation, or maintenance**, or in the cost of land acquisition therefor.

CA Dept Water Resources Flood Management Projects:

When planning and executing our projects, we consider a broad range of potential benefits to improve their value to Californians and their communities:

- **Enhance fisheries/wildlife habitat**
- **Improve recreation and open spaces**

Integrated regional water management (IRWM) ... water managers ... in a collaborative, open, and transparent manner, are best suited and best positioned to manage water resources **Issues...**

- **Recreation**
- **Cultural considerations**



Ventura River Trail

The Santa Clara River Loop: Proposal: Sierra Club, FSCR

- Grant from National Park Service
- Endorsed by County and Cities
- Gets trail “construction grant ready”, but needs CEQA



Plan to be released Fall 2021

- Eventually to beach and Piru

Go to FSCR.org and YouTube Channel for Videos

Please Attend and Comment!

Santa Clara River Levee (SCR-1) COMMUNITY UPDATE MEETING



Learn more about structural improvements intended to enhance flood protection for the Riverpark, Wagon Wheel, and El Rio West communities along the river

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021 | 6:00PM



Meeting Schedule:

6:00pm: Introductions & Presentation
6:30pm: Discussion and Q&A

Zoom Registration:

<https://bit.ly/scrver1>

Pre-recorded presentation is available online at: vcpublicworks.org/santaclarariverlevee

Suggested Comments (modified):

1. Take full lead of planning, funding, and constructing of trail, education features and levee soil/vegetation cover, and partner with local cities and other government organization

2. Direct Watershed Protection District, Park and Recreation Dept, or other entity to make it happen

3. Leverage all funding sources and methods, such as

a. Levee Project Grants and Loans, Federal and State Programs

b. Coordinate and partner with cities, state and federal, county health, philanthropy, and non-profits

What We Need to Do, Write County Supervisors and City Leaders



District 1 - Matt LaVere

800 S. Victoria Ave., L#1900, Ventura, CA 93009
Phone: (805) 654-2703 | Fax: (805) 654-2226
Email: Matt.LaVere@ventura.org

District 2 - Supervisor Linda Parks

625 West Hillcrest Drive Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Phone: (805) 214-2510 | Fax: (805) 480-0585
Toll Free Number: (800) 660-5474
Email: Linda.Parks@ventura.org

District 3 - Supervisor Kelly Long

1203 Flynn Road, Suite 220, Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: (805) 654-2276 | Fax: (805) 654-2226
Email: kelly.long@ventura.org

District 4 - Supervisor Bob Huber

980 Enchanted Way #203, Simi Valley, California 93065
Phone: (805) 955-2300 | Fax: (805) 578-1822
Email: supervisor.huber@ventura.org

District 5 - Supervisor Carmen Ramirez

800 S. Victoria Ave., L#1860, Ventura, CA 93009
Phone: (805) 654-2613
Email: Carmen.Ramirez@ventura.org



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Jim Danza, Chair, AICP

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contact@fscr.org