

# 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

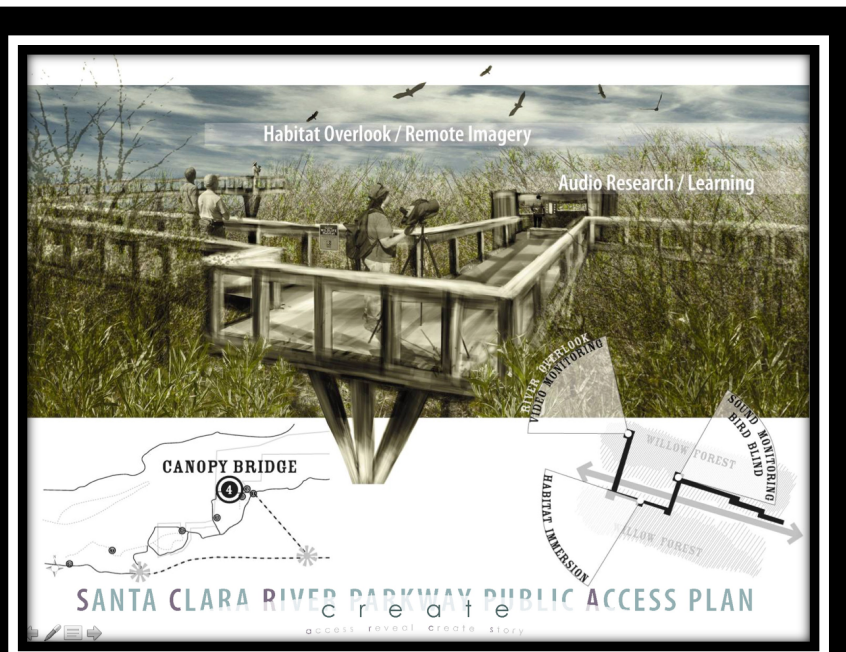




FRIENDS OF  
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER

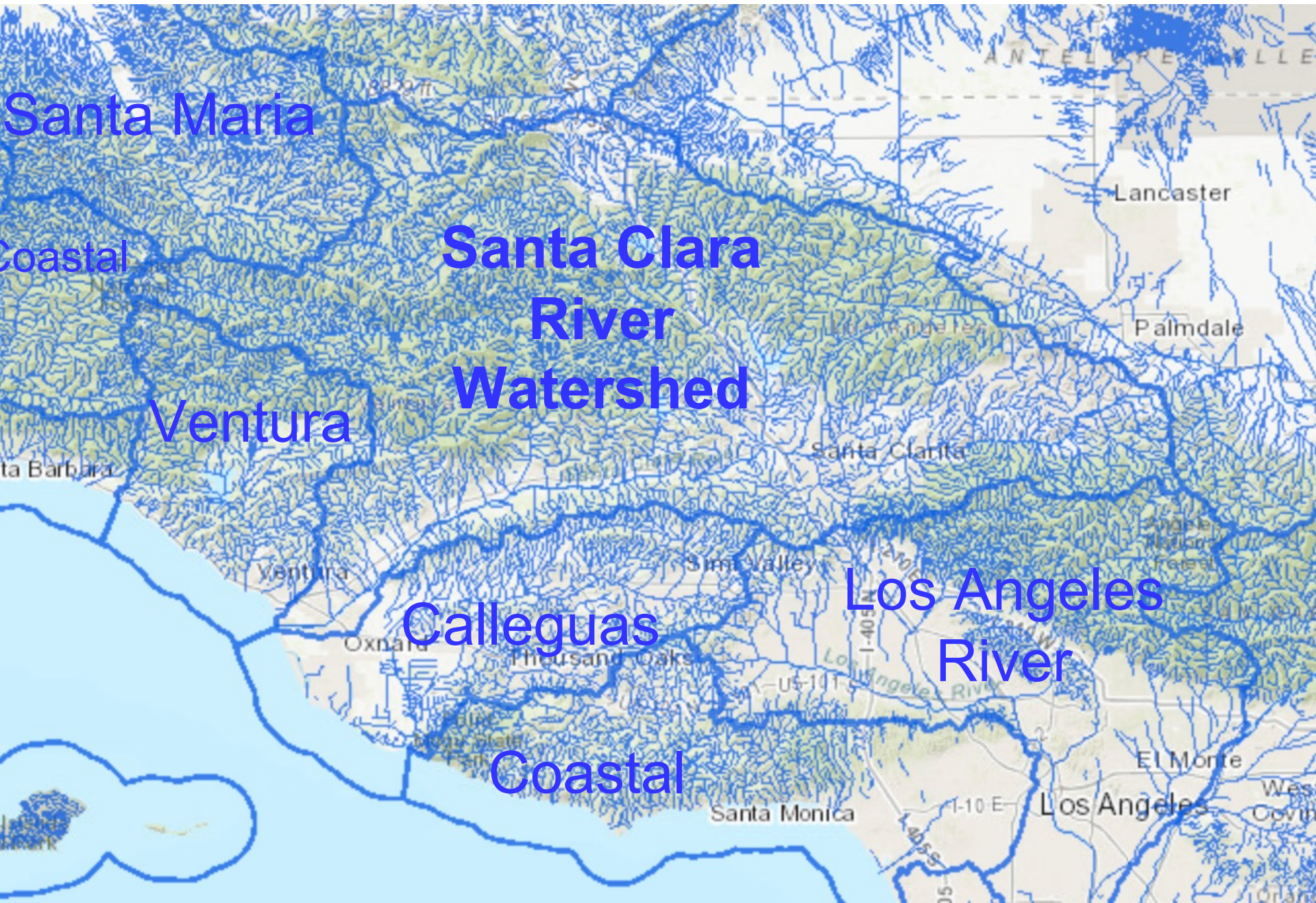
## ■ Agenda:

- ◆ 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                             |



Santa Clara River in Oxnard



Santa Clara River in  
Oxnard



# 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  |



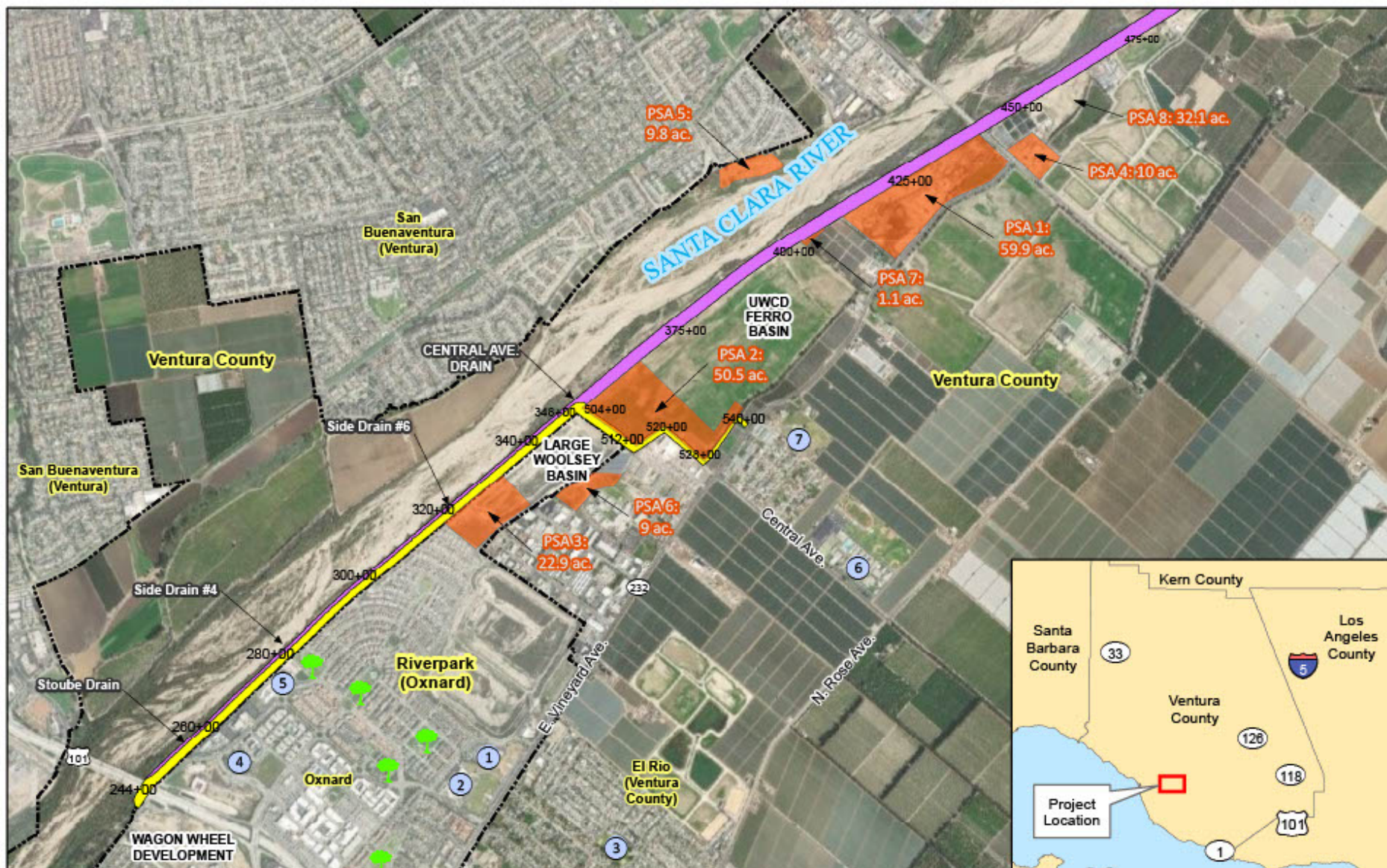
Santa Clara River in Oxnard





# SCR-1 Project

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



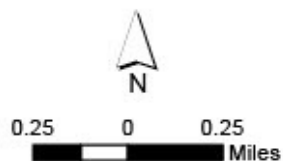
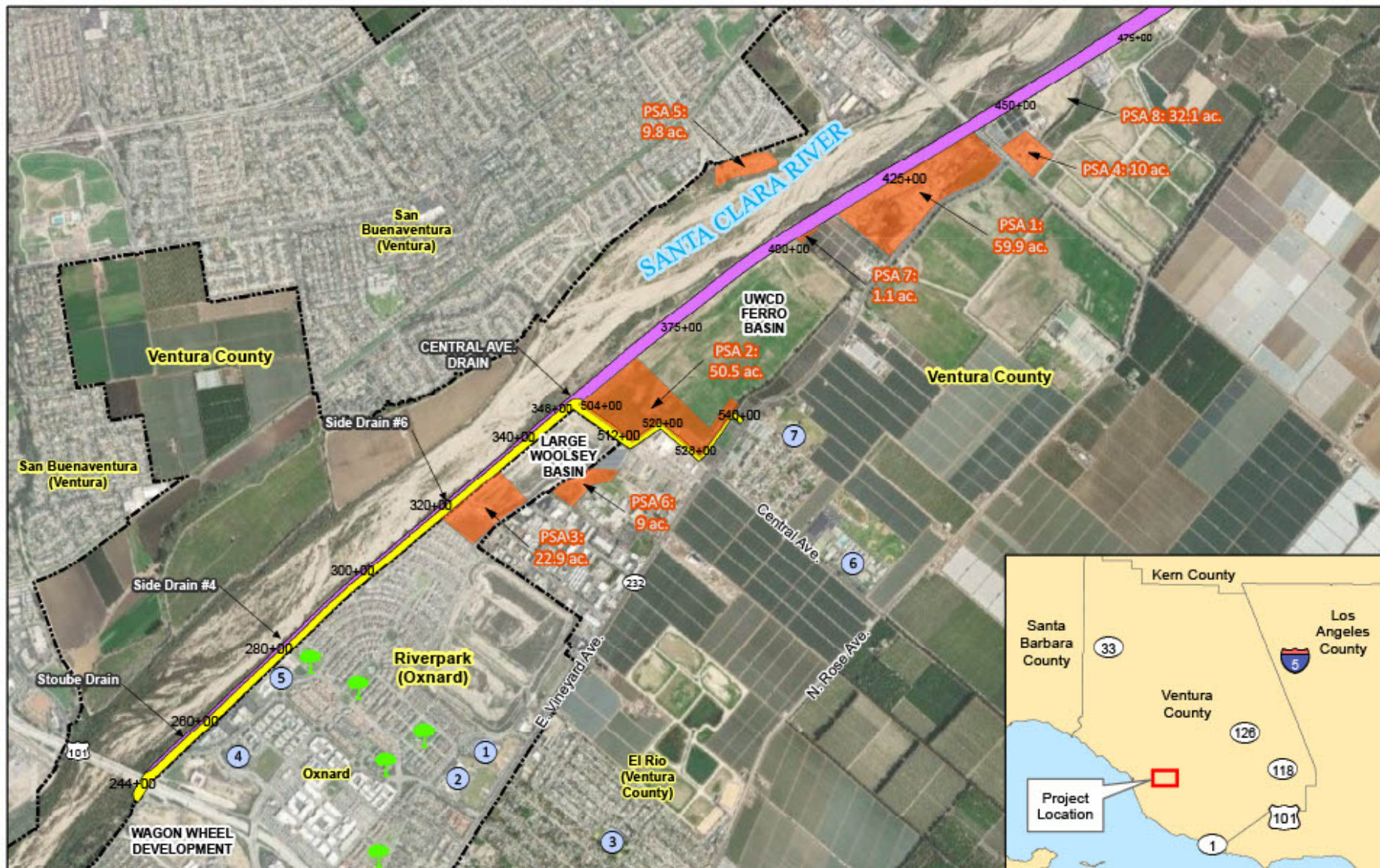


# SCR-1 Project

According the VCWPD, existing levee is no longer certifiable







- 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

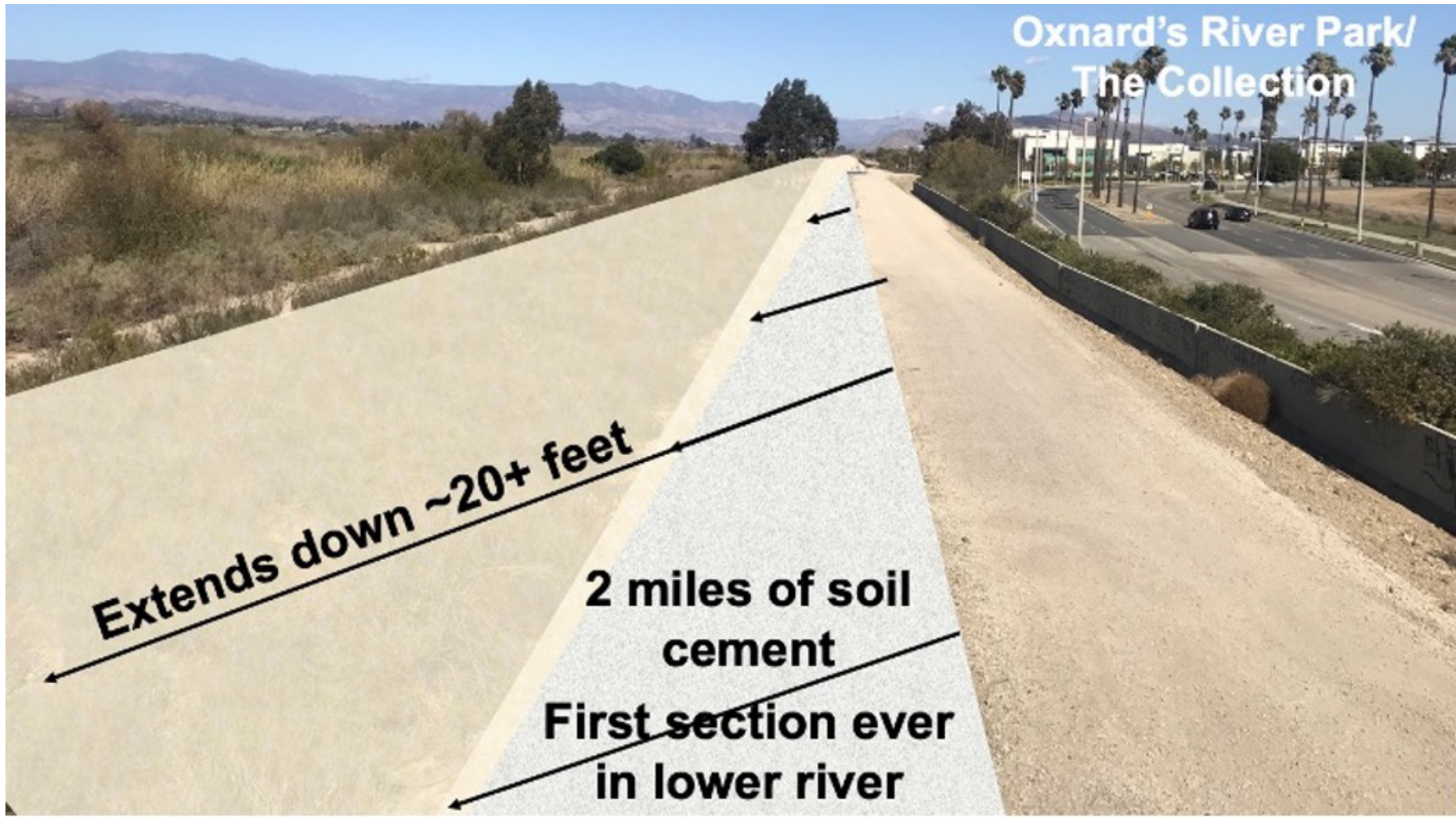
- 4 National University
- 5 Rio Del Sol School S.T.E.A.M. Academy
- 6 Rio Mesa High School
- 7 Linda Vista Adventist Elementary School

**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



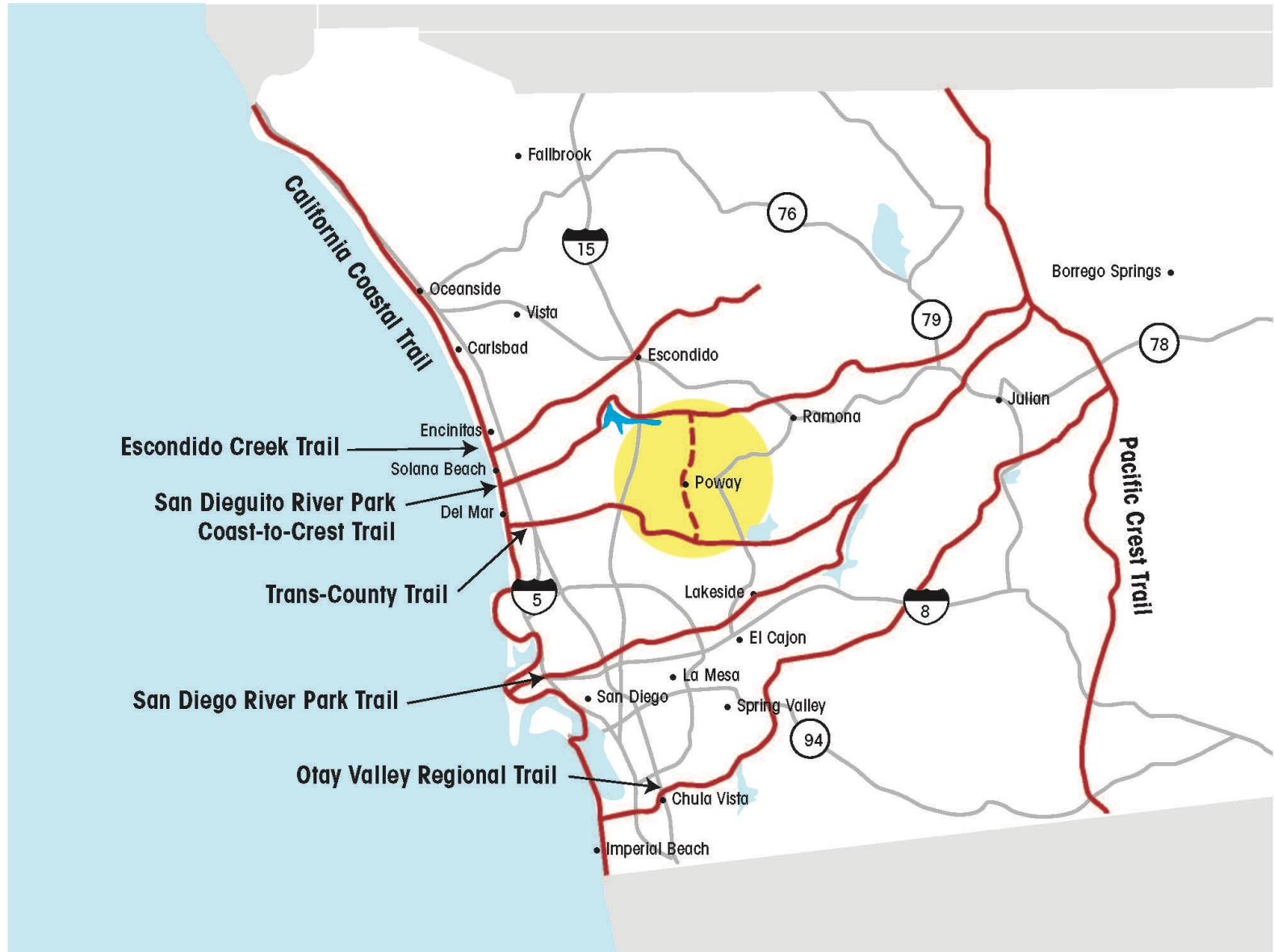
# Bike Trails and Amenities are Commonly Constructed with Flood Projects





# Other Counties

## San Diego Bike Trails





# Other Counties

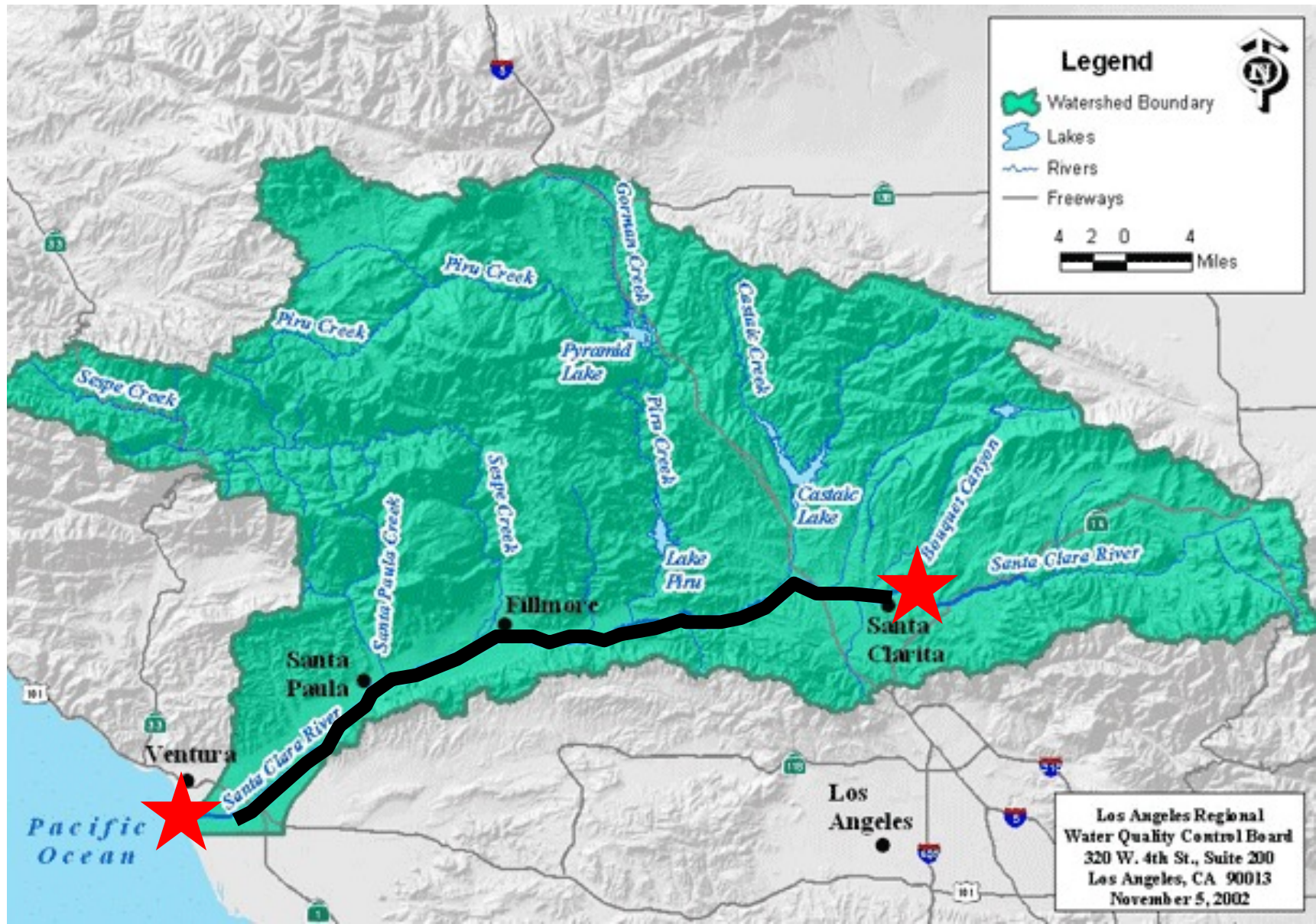
## Los Angeles and Orange County Bike Trails





# The Santa Clara River Today

## Can I go in the river?





# **Ventura County**

## **County Plan to Own and Maintain**





# Goal for SCR-1 Project



FRIENDS OF  
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER

- 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



- 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



# 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:<br>June<br>July<br>August<br>September<br>October<br>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 – <a href="mailto:eric.humel@oxnard.org">eric.humel@oxnard.org</a> )  |  |   |
| 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:<br>June<br>July<br>August<br>September<br>October<br>November |
| City of Oxnard Police Department   |  |   |
| FOSCR  |  |   |
| State Coastal Conservancy  |  |   |
| Rio School District  |  |   |
| Lloyd-Butler Ranch   |  |   |
| Channel Islands Bike Club (Terry Spragg – <a href="mailto:cyclezealot@gmail.com">cyclezealot@gmail.com</a> )   |  |   |
| Ventura Bike Hub (Joey Juhasz-Lukomski – <a href="mailto:Joey@bikeventura.org">Joey@bikeventura.org</a> )  |  |   |
| Ventura County Transportation Commission (Steve DeGeorge - <a href="mailto:SDeGeorge@goventura.org">SDeGeorge@goventura.org</a> ; Andrew Kent – <a href="mailto:Akent@goventura.org">Akent@goventura.org</a> ) |  |   |
| Ventura Audubon Society  |  |   |
| CAUSE (Aracely Preciado)   | Identify funding for installation and long term maintenance  |   |
| The Nature Conservancy (Kat Selm – <a href="mailto:kat.selm@tnc.org">kat.selm@tnc.org</a> )  |  |   |
| 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

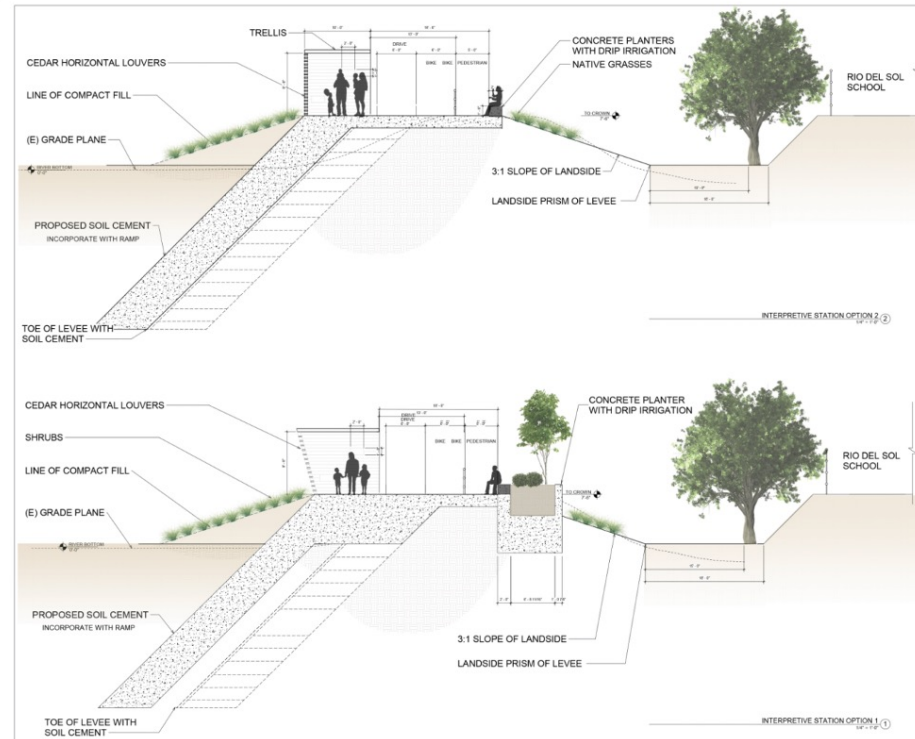


RIO DEL SOL GATEWAY TO LEVEE + INTERPRETIVE STATION #2



LEVEE TRAIL WITH ENGINEERED FILL + TREES

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







OUTDOOR CLASSROOM • INTERPRETIVE STATION #3



RIVER / RDS ENTRY GATEWAY



# 2018 Stakeholder Process Results

## Stakeholder Process Overview

On track. ■ **Goal 1:** Certify & Accredite 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!



Non-profits Do Much of the  
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](http://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**

**PUBLIC**  
VENTURA COUNTY  
**WORKS**

CITY OF  
**OXNARD**  
CALIFORNIA

### Meeting Schedule:

6:00pm: Introductions & Presentation

6:30pm: Discussion and Q&A

### Zoom Registration:

<https://bit.ly/scriver1>

Pre-recorded presentation is available online at: [vcpublishworks.org/santaclarariverlevee](https://vcpublishworks.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Carmen.Ramirez@ventura.org)



FRIENDS OF  
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER

**Jim Danza, Chair, AICP**

**FSCR.org**

**contact@fscr.org**