



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Received

JUN 20 2013

Transportation Department

Juan C. Perez, P.E., T.E.
Director of Transportation

Agenda Item XIII
WCCA
8/14/13

Transportation Department
Environmental Division

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE: Santa Ana River Trail Improvements Project
Work Order #ZC10642, TaskCode #Z1530

April 30, 2013
FILED
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

MAY 01 2013

LARRY W. WARD, CLERK
By *[Signature]* M. Meyer
Deputy

PROJECT SPONSOR: Riverside County Transportation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: Traverses portions of unincorporated San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: District 2

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Riverside County Transportation Department (RCTD) in cooperation with Riverside County Regional Parks & Open Space District proposes improvements to an existing portion of the Santa Ana River Trail as designated by the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway partners. The proposed improvements would convert the existing 8 to 27 foot wide dirt trail into a bike lane and multi-purpose trail. The project would start just north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSR) tracks that bisects the Green River Golf Course, would then travel north and east ending at State Route 71, approximately 2.37 miles.

The proposed bike lane and multi-purpose trail would follow the existing dirt trail and would be approximately 25 feet (ft) wide. The proposed bike trail would be approximately 8 to 12 ft wide on the east side and consist of AC. The multi-purpose trail would be approximately 12 ft wide on the west side and consist of DG. The proposed trail improvements will be constructed close to the existing grade of the existing trail. The majority of the excavation will be needed to install the structural section for the asphalt concrete portion of the trail. The depth of excavation should be approximately a maximum of 1.5 ft.

The bike trail and multi-purpose trail would be separated by a split rail wood fence. In addition, fencing will be placed alongside the east and west side of the trail. The fencing would begin approximately 1000 ft north of the BNSR tracks to approximately 300 ft south of Aliso Creek on the north-west side of the trail, and on the south-east side of the trail it will be from approximately 1900 ft of the BNSR tracks to approximately 300 ft south of Aliso Creek to prevent the horses in the area from roaming onto the trail.

A segment of the proposed project bisects the Aliso Canyon Creek. The existing width of the dip section is approximately 8 ft and will be widened to an approximate 20 foot concrete dip section. Approximately 4 ft on both sides of the trail will be graded to allow for tapering into the existing terrain.

Due to multiple agencies owning portions of the trail, coordination by RCTD will take place to obtain easements from each agency prior to construction of the trail.

The proposed project will improve the existing dirt trail by providing a defined usable and safe bike lane and multi-purpose trail for multiple users (hikers, bicyclists and equestrians) and will contribute to the 110 mile Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway.

Technical Studies prepared for Proposed Trail Improvements

The following technical studies were prepared to analysis the proposed improvements on the existing dirt trail:

Biological Resource Constraint Analysis (November 2012)

The Biological Resource Constraint Analysis identified that roughly 75 percent of the proposed project lies within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The remainder occurs within San Bernardino County. The proposed trail project is an adopted planned regional trail, illustrated on Figure 7-4, Volume I of the Plan, with covered uses including hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. The improvements to and/or construction of such trails are covered activities under the Plan. Guidelines are provided in Section 7.4.2 for siting and design of trails within the MSHCP conservation areas. Specific avoidance and minimization measures in Section 7.5.3 and Appendix C of Volume I of the Plan would be applicable to this project.

MSHCP riparian-riverine resources and avoidance of the Least Bell's Vireo are addressed within the avoidance and minimization measures and forthcoming Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation.

Jurisdictional Delineation Report and Impacts Analysis for Jurisdictional Waters Resources for the Santa Ana River Trail (November 2012)

The Jurisdictional Delineation Report (JDR) documented 5 features that were all determined to be subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) and/or Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as part of the jurisdictional delineation. The Impact Analysis indicated that approximately 0.001 acres of non-wetland Waters of the U.S., approximately 0.022 acres of unvegetated streambed and approximately 0.013 acres of CDFG jurisdictional riparian resources would be impacted by the proposed project. All permits will be obtained prior to construction of the proposed trail improvements.

Cultural Resource Assessment (November 2012)

A Cultural Resource Assessment was performed and research findings indicated that no prehistoric or historic cultural resources have been previously documented within the project area. However, the proposed project alignment itself was identified during the field survey as part of a previously documented historic-period railroad route. Due to the age of the railroad route (1880s) and the moderate sensitivity for 19th century archaeological resources, monitoring of all earthmoving activities by a qualified archaeologist is required.

The Riverside County Transportation Department Staff conducted a review of the above referenced project and has determined that the proposal qualifies for a Categorical Exemption per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

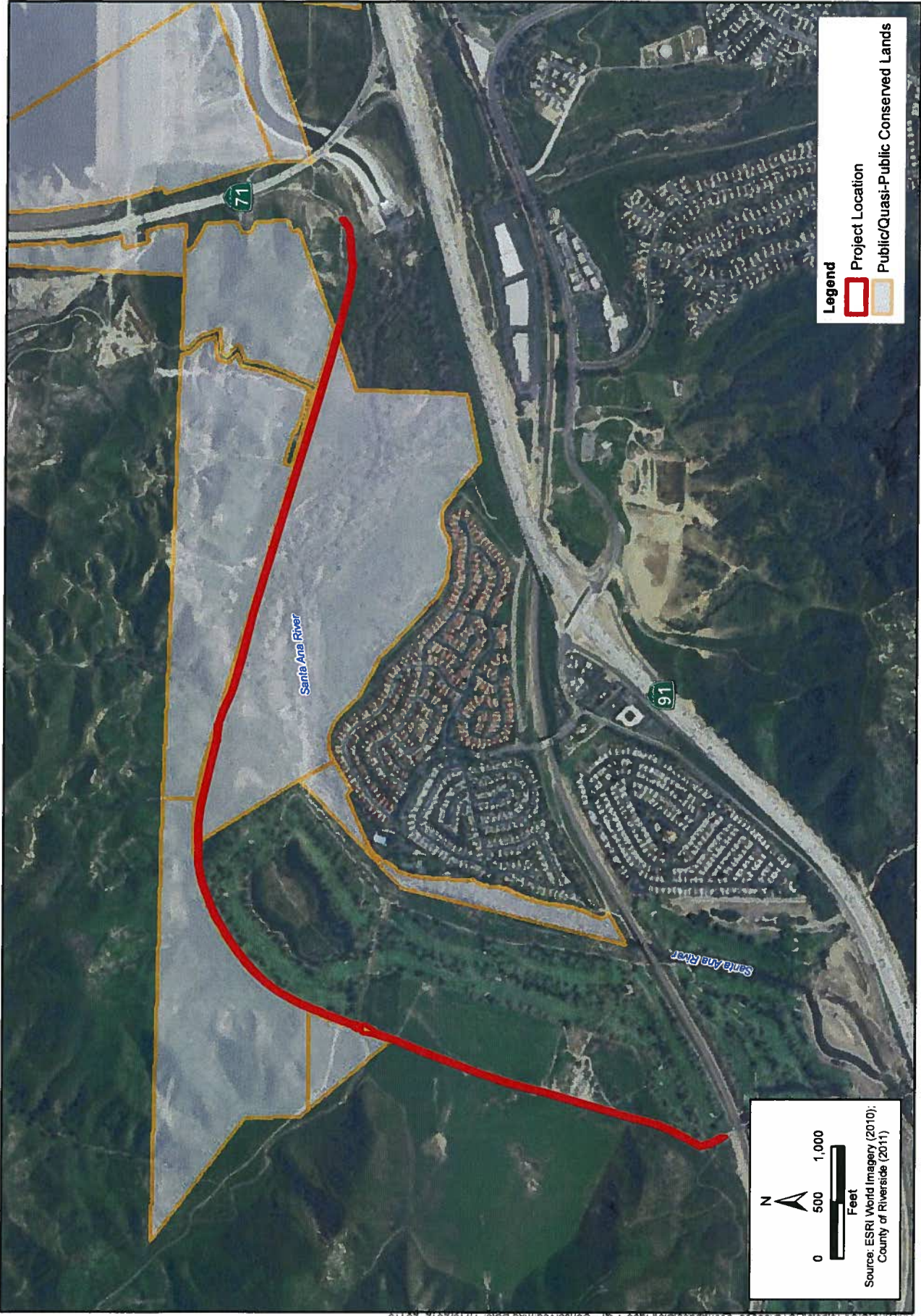
The Riverside County Transportation Department has found that the above-described project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15301 (c)

By: Frances Segovia, Senior Transportation Planner

Signed: _____

Russell Williams
Russell Williams, Environmental Division Manager



**Project Location
Santa Ana River Trail**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

Receipt #: 201300209

State Clearinghouse # (if applicable): _____

Lead Agency: RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION Date: 05/01/2013

County Agency of Filing: Riverside Document No: 201300209

Project Title: SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Project Applicant Name: RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION Phone Number: 951 955-6800

Project Applicant Address: 3525 14TH ST RIVERSIDE CA 92501

Project Applicant: Local Public Agency

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- Environmental Impact Report _____
 - Negative Declaration _____
 - Application Fee Water Diversion (State Water Resources Control Board Only) _____
 - Project Subject to Certified Regulatory Programs _____
 - County Administration Fee _____
 - Project that is exempt from fees (DFG No Effect Determination (Form Attached)) _____
 - Project that is exempt from fees (Notice of Exemption) _____
- Total Received** \$50.00

Signature and title of person receiving payment: 

Notes:

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