



30 July 2018

Heather Dyer, Water Resource Project Manager
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
380 Vanderbilt Way
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Re: Notice of Preparation for Upper Santa Ana River Tributaries Restoration Project

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Rivers & Lands Conservancy enhances the quality of life in our community by conserving open spaces, habitats, and agricultural lands through acquisition, stewardship, and community engagement. We primarily serve the lands, people, and wildlife of inland Southern California.

Rivers & Lands Conservancy
4075 Mission Inn Ave.
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 788-0670
Fax (951) 788-0679
jyezzo@riversandlands.org
www.riversandlands.org

Non-Profit Organization
Section 501 (c) (3)
TIN: 33-0294311

Dear Ms. Dyer:

The Santa Ana River provides opportunities for recreation uses in both developed and undeveloped locations. In the immediate vicinity of the Upper Santa Ana River Tributaries Restoration Project (“Project”) restoration sites, developed locations and features include Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park, Rancho Jurupa Regional Park, Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, and the Santa Ana River Trail. Undeveloped areas are found throughout much of the River area and may be accessed from existing parks and trails. Trail and recreation plans are addressed in the City of Riverside General Plan, City of Jurupa Draft General Plan, and County of Riverside General Plan.

There are a variety of organized recreational and outreach activities that regularly occur within and near the developed locations and features. Rivers & Lands Conservancy regularly leads cleanup activities along the River and the Santa Ana River Trail and is working with the City of Riverside Parks department to establish native planting areas within Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park.

Please ensure that the Draft EIR for the Project addresses:

1. The existing setting with respect to recreational uses and activities within the Santa Ana River area.
2. Any inconsistencies between the Project and existing recreational uses and activities within the Santa Ana River area as identified in the above General Plans.
3. How the Project may impede or alter ongoing recreational and outreach activities (e.g. Will public access be prohibited or restricted in the restoration sites?).

Rivers & Lands Conservancy supports the Habitat Conservation Plan effort and is willing to assist in identifying on-going recreational uses and activities within the Project area.

Sincerely,
RIVERS & LANDS CONSERVANCY

Jack Easton
Executive Director