

## **Notice of Section 401 Application Reception**

**File Number:** 302025-06

**Project Name:** William Mason Regional Park Pathway Improvement Project

**Received:** 05/16/2025

**Date Posted:** 05/21/2025

**End of 21 Day Public Comment Period:** 06/11/2025

**Project Location:** 33.657387° N, -117.817173° W

**Project City:** Irvine

**Project County:** Orange

**Applicant Organization:** OC Parks

**Applicant Name:** Rita Abellar

**Waterboard Staff:** TBA

### **Brief Description of Project:**

**Project Description:** The project seeks to mitigate recurrent flooding in lower-elevation areas of the trail, enhance public safety, and create improved pathways for water and wildlife within the park, while decreasing the potential for future obstructions.

**Project Activities:** OC Parks is proposing to improve pathways within William Mason Regional Park in Irvine, Orange County, California (Figure 1), at eight distinct areas along a concrete pathway (Figure 2). The project aims to alleviate routine flooding in lower-elevation portions of the trail by removing and reconstructing low-lying concrete pathway areas, replacing storm drainpipes with pedestrian bridges, and removing existing concrete debris. The project will enhance public safety and establish improved corridors for water and wildlife through the park, while reducing the likelihood of future blockages. The project includes site clearance, removal and demolition of an existing concrete pathway and storm drainpipe, grading, installation of boardwalk bridges, abutments, and concrete sidewalks, and protection of existing utilities. The construction is projected to last approximately one year, with two bridges being built concurrently in each phase. The primary aquatic feature in the park is Sand Canyon Wash, an ephemeral/intermittent stream/feature that flows from east to west and is the largest tributary to San Diego Creek. All tributaries within the biological study area (BSA) connect to Sand Canyon Wash, which is included in the Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) for the San Diego Creek Watershed (Figure 3). Elevations of proposed bridge locations generally transition downwards moving east to west, with Area 8 at 107 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and Area 1 at 60 feet amsl. Bridge locations generally

occur over or adjacent to the downstream flow of Sand Canyon Wash. An Aquatic Resources Delineation Report (Attachment 1) and Biological Resources Report (Attachment 2) were prepared by ICF in April 2025. Sixteen vegetation communities / land cover types are present within the biological study area; eleven native vegetation communities were detected (Figure 4). One special status plant (southern tar plant) was found in the limit of disturbance. Three listed special status wildlife species (southwestern pond turtle, California gnatcatcher and least Bell's vireo) are known to occur in the area.