

Notice of Intent (NOI) Application Reception

File Number: 302022-16

Project Name: San Diego Creek Reach 1 Pilot Project

Date Application Posted: 8/25/2022

Received: 7/15/2022

Project City: Irvine

Project County: Orange

Applicant Organization: Orange County Public Works

Applicant Name: Giles Matthews

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to demonstrate that the habitat within Reach I of San Diego Creek can be enhanced by removing the accumulated sediment that has built up along the toe of slope and is suppressing riparian growth.

Project Activities: The proposed work at the two pilot plots would remove approximately 2-6' of built up sediment on the bank so that the proposed bank would be just slightly higher (~0.4-1.0') than the mean high tide of the channel. Removal of this sediment and vegetation primarily built up near the water's edge, would extend the levee toe approximately 60' where it would transition to the existing slope adjacent to the bike trail. The ground profile would be kept uneven to diversify hydraulic variability for maximum vegetation establishment success. The finished contours would be irregular to maximize opportunities for vegetation establishment and create micro-niches. There are 10' wide sloped transitions to the surrounding earthen areas of the pilot project (east, west, south) at a 2:1 to 3:1 slope. Construction will not be performed to design as-built levels, but to just above mean high tide to maximize habitat potential. If it becomes apparent that hydrology is not reaching the back of the lowered bench, through the digging of trial pits, shallow channels may be dug to improve hydrology. Survey of the plots after sediment removal for confirmation of elevations and removal coordinates would be performed for as-built conditions post-construction/removal. Crews would use excavators, dozers, and dump trucks to remove sediment/vegetation starting along the riparian bench adjacent to flows and ending at the east bike trail. Any invasive plant species 100' upstream and downstream of the sites and within the sites will be removed as part of the habitat enhancement pilot. Equipment will enter and exit the site from the bike trail. The sites' vegetation would passively restore to determine native vegetation establishment rates. If vegetation does not grow fast enough, native willows and mule-fat will be planted on the two plots, as detailed in the restoration and establishment plan.