

Notice of Section 401 Application Reception

File Number: 332026-01

Project Name: Cactus Channel Improvements

Received: 01/08/2026

Date Posted: 01/15/2026

End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 02/04/2026

Project Location: 33.909927°N, -117.25015°W

Project City and County: Moreno Valley, Riverside

Applicant Organization: Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Applicant Name: Joan Valle

Waterboard Staff: KF

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The project will convert an existing, undersized, man-made stormwater channel to an underground storm drain system for the goal of providing flood protection to nearby properties, up to 100-year discharge volumes. Impacts consist of the placement of concrete box culvert system within the channel. The box culvert system has been designed to contain the 100-year flood discharge to reduce flooding impacts currently experienced by the residential, commercial, federal, public, and privately owned properties within the vicinity of the channel. Rainfall as small as five-year events continue to undermine the condition of the channel, the sustainability of neighboring City of Moreno Valley storm drain facilities and contribute to an ongoing waterfowl issue near MARB. The unimproved nature of the channel is also contributing to the continued deterioration and failure of certain storm outlets within the City of Moreno Valley. We are planning to advertise for a general contractor around April 2026 and thereby will need permits by that time to include them with the bid documents.

Project Activities: The approximately 10-acre project site is located immediately south of Cactus Avenue in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California. The downstream terminus connects to Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's (District) Heacock Channel located at the southwest corner of Cactus Avenue and Heacock Street intersection. The upstream terminus is located immediately east of the Elsworth Street intersection. The proposed project right-of-way is located southerly of Cactus Avenue and is principally under the control of the March Joint Powers Authority (MJPA). The District proposes to convert an existing undersized, actively maintained, low quality, manmade stormwater channel (Cactus Avenue Channel) to an underground storm drain system for the purpose of providing 100-year flood

protection to nearby properties. Due to the existing channel being undersized, flash flooding has occurred due to overtopping of the bank during moderate to intense rainfall. The project permanently discharges fill material into 1.71 acres of waters of the United States (U.S.), of which 1.39 acres are wetland waters. A total of 7,426 linear feet of streambed are permanently filled. Impacts consist of the placement of concrete box culvert system within the channel. The box culvert system has been designed to contain the 100-year flood discharge to reduce flooding impacts currently experienced by the residential, commercial, federal, public, and privately owned properties within the vicinity of the channel. The box culvert system would connect to existing infrastructure in the channel and the system would run approximately 7,900 linear feet and would vary in width from an 11-foot-wide box to a 9-foot-wide double box (approximately 19 feet in width total). The project alignment will parallel Cactus Avenue, commencing immediately east of Cactus Avenue and Elsworth Street intersection and terminating at Heacock Channel located at the southwest corner of Cactus Avenue and Heacock Street. The project is identified in the District's Sunnymead Master Drainage Plan (MDP) as Sunnymead - Cactus Avenue Channel – Stage 1. The project will also accommodate several existing connections to the channel from MARB, MJPA, the City of Moreno Valley, and the District.