



LOS ANGELES SECTION, REGION 9

San Bernardino & Riverside Counties Branch

FOUNDED 1953

Outstanding Project Awards

OUTSTANDING PRIVATE SECTOR CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECT (Please select the category or categories below that are applicable to your project)

Project Name: _____

Project Address or Location: _____

Project Owner Name or Company: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please describe the project, including any special features, innovations, and challenges. Consider all phases of the project, including planning, design, construction, and operation maintenance. Include information on the environmental impacts and public benefits of the project, a color photograph of the project and any articles from trade journals or newspapers about the project.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SECTOR CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECT (Please select the category or categories below that are applicable to your project)

Project Name: Mill Creek Wetlands

Project Address or Location: Chino Corona Road, Chino, California

Project Owner Name or Company: City of Ontario

Contact Person: Louis Abi-Younes, City Engineer

Address: City Hall First Floor, 303 East B Street, Ontario, CA 91764

Phone: 909.395-2025 e-mail: labi-younes@ci.ontario.ca.us

On a separate sheet of paper, please describe the project, including any special features, innovations, and challenges. Consider all phases of the project, including planning, design, construction, and operation maintenance. Include information on the environmental impacts and public benefits of the project, a color photograph of the project and any articles from trade journals or newspapers about the project.

Award Category for ASCE Region 9 Consideration (please check (✓) all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Airports & Ports Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural Engineering Project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bikeways & Trails Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge Project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Improvement Project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Construction Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy Project

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Engineering Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flood Management Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geotechnical Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical Renovation Project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parks & Recreation Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Roadway & Highway Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Project

<input type="checkbox"/>	Structural Engineering Project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Engineering Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation Project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban or Land Development Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water/Wastewater Treatment Project

(The following must be completed with each nomination)

THIS NOMINATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY:

Name: Ken Susilo, P.E., D.WRE, CPSWQ, and Diego Cadena, F., ASCE

Title: Principal, Vice-President (Susilo) and Senior Consultant (Cadena)

Employer: Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

Address: 3415 South Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Phone: 310.957.6100 e-mail: ksusilo@geosyntec.com, dcadena@geosyntec.com

All nomination forms and supporting documents are the property of the San Bernardino & Riverside Counties Branch and may be used at the Branch's discretion. Submittals will not be returned.

MILL CREEK WETLANDS

2013 - 2014
NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING
PUBLIC SECTOR
CIVIL ENGINEERING
PROJECT, ASCE



CONTENTS

1

Entry Form

2

Project
Description

4

Imagery

7

Letters of
Commendation

25

Press

Mill Creek Wetlands is a unique multi-jurisdictional project that creates, protects, and restores the region's native ecosystems while enhancing recreational and educational uses as part of a regional watershed management plan. Spearheaded by the City of Ontario and supported by the City of Chino, the County of San Bernardino, the Inland Empire Utilities Agencies, the Orange County Water District, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and project engineers Geosyntec Consultants and TMAD Taylor and Gaines, the proposed project transforms a fallow, underutilized area within the Prado Basin into a natural water quality treatment system. The project's unique regional approach is also supported by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, and the California Natural Resources Agency through grant funding. In addition, it is an integral part of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

INNOVATIVE DESIGN/ CONSTRUCTION BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY

Mill Creek Wetlands restores 23 acres of native habitat to the Prado Basin and creates 2.25 miles of recreational trails. Its trail system provides future trail connections for the inter-county trail system as well as the Coast to Crest Trail intended to connect the Santa Ana River Trail from its outfall in Orange

County to the mountains in San Bernardino. The new trail system also connects to the City of Chino Urban Buffer linear park/open space.

Interpretive signage is located at trailheads and throughout the trail system to provide park users with a better understanding of the history of the area; local wildlife that might be viewed; information on native vegetation, including plant communities and individual species; and an explanation of water quality and natural treatment systems. Trails are ADA compliant and open from dawn to dusk at no cost to the public.

Construction materials were handpicked to enhance compatibility with the environment, balancing project goals and objectives with sustainability principles, environmental stewardship, and conservation of natural resources. Hiking trails and parking lots were built with permeable and semi-permeable surfaces. Native, drought tolerant vegetation was planted to promote wildlife and endangered species habitats while minimizing the need for irrigation. Finally, a solar powered irrigation system was installed to conserve water.

PROJECT COMPLEXITY/ CHALLENGES

Cucamonga Creek watershed encompasses approximately 77 square miles, comprising portions of the cities of Ontario, Chino, Rancho Cucamonga, and Upland. The California State Water

Resources Control Board has listed Cucamonga Creek, Mill Creek, and the Santa Ana River as 303(d) impacted water bodies. Active and former agricultural uses and urban runoff from developed areas represent the primary contributors to the pollutants found in the watershed.

The project enacts a regional approach to water quality enhancement in Prado Basin, protecting the viability of native habitat while improving groundwater quality for downstream water users. Water flowing through Prado Basin is the principal source of recharge for the Orange County Groundwater Basin. In turn, groundwater pumped from the Orange County Groundwater Basin is the primary source of drinking water consumed and used in Orange County.

Mill Creek Wetlands is a regional natural treatment facility that provides treatment of both wet weather and dry weather flows using natural wetland processes to address sediment, metals, bacteria, and nutrients. During wet weather, the wetlands have a treatment capacity of 147 acre-feet. They are estimated to treat an average of 2,050 acre-feet of wet weather runoff per year, equalling approximately 11% of average annual wet weather runoff in the Cucamonga Creek Channel. In contrast, a single-function water quality project of the same size in an upstream tributary is only capable of effectively capturing approximately 6% of total

wet-weather runoff from the watershed.

During dry weather, the wetlands divert 2.5 to 15 cubic feet per second of dry weather flow, resulting in the treatment of approximately 3,100 acre feet of dry weather flow per year. This figure corresponds to approximately 10% of total dry weather flow volume from Cucamonga Creek Channel. Excellent treatment capacity during wet and dry weather make the project an effective means of leveraging water quality benefits regionally year-round.

IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Prado Basin contains some of the best and largest riparian habitat in all of Southern California, hosting more than 300 species of plants, 13 species of reptiles, 47 species of breeding birds, 11 species of raptors, and 23 species of mammals. Included are threatened and endangered species such as the least Bell's vireo, arroyo chub, and Santa Ana sucker.

The project is located adjacent to Mill Creek, which has well established native vegetation along the embankments, providing valuable habitat for the region's native species. Located on fallowed upland and degraded transitional riparian habitat areas directly adjacent to the well established riparian vegetation along Mill Creek, the project site consists primarily of land that has been disturbed by prior agricultural activities and is

consequently dominated by non-native vegetation.

The project's Native Habitat Plan creates several planting zones that benefit local wildlife, including endangered species, by utilizing plants that promote nesting, breeding and foraging. The restored riparian habitat includes plant species such as willows, mulefat, cottonwoods, and Mexican elderberry. Riparian vegetation provides habitat for a variety of animal species, including the federal and state-listed endangered least Bell's vireo. The upland habitat restoration includes large tree species such as oaks, walnuts, sycamores and toyon in addition to an understory consisting of shrubs, perennials, and native grasses in varying densities.

UNIQUE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Mill Creek Wetlands requires a minimal amount of human operation and maintenance, and the few human operation and maintenance activities required are carefully scheduled to avoid disrupting endangered species breeding and nesting habits.

The project diverts flows from Cucamonga Creek into a series of natural water quality treatment ponds that include areas of open water and wetland vegetation. The system removes trash and debris first as water flows through the de-silting basin; then, pollutants are removed through natural settlement, ultraviolet light treatment, and biological activity as the water

travels through native wetland vegetation. The system is entirely gravity fed, requiring no manmade energy sources; consequently, it promotes progressive water quality alternatives that advance the use of renewable, sustainable, and environmentally sensitive designs, materials, and practices.

AESTHETICS

The project's Native Habitat Plan works in tandem with the project's Recreation Plan to provide shade, wildlife viewing opportunities, and aesthetics. The project restores approximately 23 acres of native upland and riparian habitat via native planting in wetland ponds and slopes and the replacement of non-native vegetation, agricultural lands, and disturbed areas with high quality native vegetation.

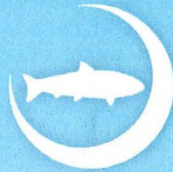
The project also provides recreational opportunities by incorporating a looped trail system to the west of the existing habitat along Mill Creek around vegetated and open water ponds. The trail system includes benches in locations that offer vistas of the surrounding riparian and upland environment and wetland ponds, interactive features for visitors, and enhanced viewing locations. Native planting is coordinated around recreational features to provide shade and increase the aesthetic appeal of the views. In addition, native plantings attract numerous wildlife species, offering excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.

MILL CREEK WETLANDS

RESTORES 23 ACRES OF NATIVE UPLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT HOME TO:



300 species of plants



3 threatened or endangered species



13 species of reptiles



47 species of breeding birds



11 species of raptors



23 species of mammals

CREATES 2.25 MILES OF HIKING AND EQUESTRIAN TRAILS FEATURING:



Looped trail system



Interpretive signage



Wildlife observation

HOLDS AND TREATS 160 ACRE-FEET OF WATER IN A SERIES OF NATURAL WATER QUALITY TREATMENT PONDS:



Requiring no manmade energy



Removing pollutants via natural settlement, UV light treatment, and biological activity in native wetland vegetation



Removing trash and debris through a de-silting basin



FIGURE 1. MILL CREEK WETLANDS PROJECT SITE BEFORE CONSTRUCTION.

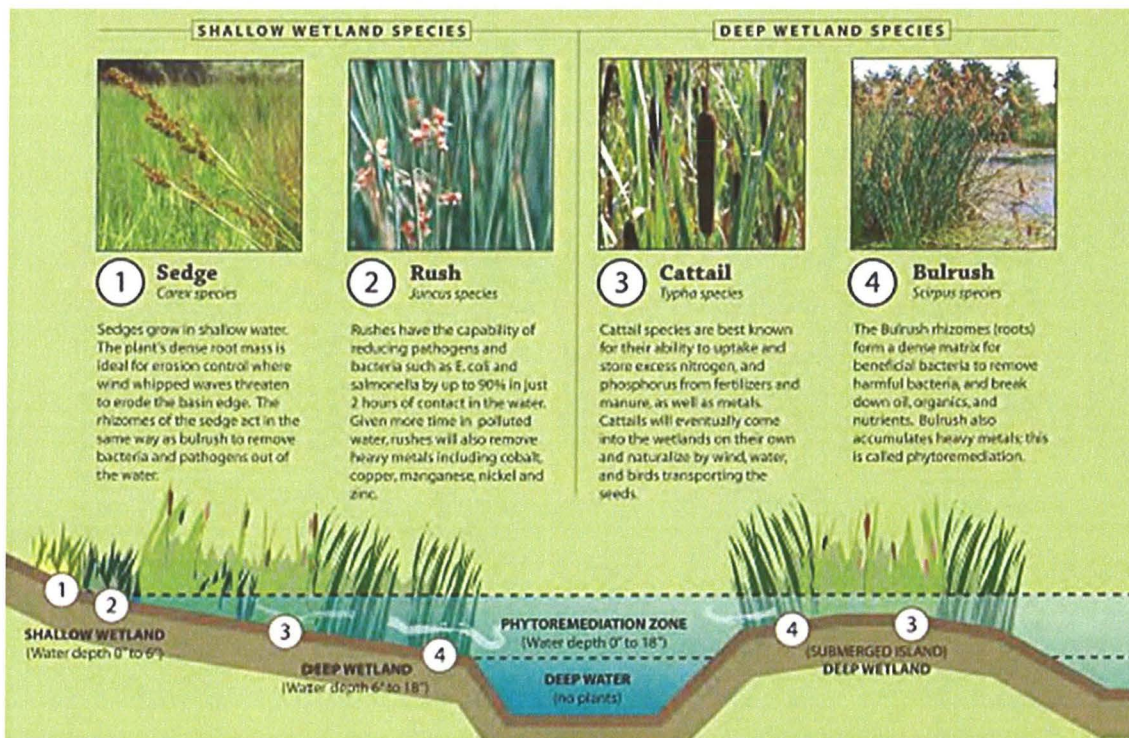


FIGURE 2. MILL CREEK WETLANDS RESTORES 23 ACRES OF NATIVE UPLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT, PROVIDING A HOME TO HUNDREDS OF PLANT AND ANIMAL

FIGURE 3. MILL CREEK WETLANDS' UNIQUE WATER QUALITY TREATMENT DOUBLES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A TRADITIONAL, SINGLE-FUNCTION PROJECT



CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4061
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4032
FAX (916) 445-0128

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/NEGRETE
SENATOR.MCLEOD@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
4959 PALO VERDE STREET
SUITE 110B
MONTCLAIR, CA 91763
TEL (909) 621-2783
FAX (909) 621-7483



October 14, 2011

Mr. John Laird, Secretary
Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT for City of Ontario's Proposition 84 River Parkways grant

Secretary Laird:

I am writing to support the City of Ontario's Proposition 84 River Parkways grant application for the Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project. The project is a unique multi-jurisdictional opportunity to restore native riparian and upland ecosystems in the Prado Basin while enhancing recreational and educational uses as part of a regional watershed management plan. The proposed project will restore both riparian and upland habitat, which are degraded due to past agricultural activities and illegal dumping. Hiking and equestrian trails will be constructed for public use, providing visitors with wildlife viewing areas adjacent to the existing habitat along Mill Creek as well as the project's restored habitat.

Consistent with the grant requirements and goals, the project's Recreational Plan provides passive recreation opportunities in the Prado Basin by incorporating approximately 3.3 miles of hiking and equestrian trails adjacent to the existing habitat along Mill Creek. The proposed trail system includes benches that offer vistas of the surrounding riparian and upland environment. Funding for the trails and riparian habitat will restore native plantings that will attract numerous wildlife species, offering excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors from throughout the region and beyond.

The project will restore approximately 23 acres of native upland and riparian habitat, including disturbed areas with high quality native vegetation, and the removal of non-native vegetation. The Native Habitat Plan creates planting zones that will benefit local wildlife, including endangered species, by utilizing plant species that promote nesting, breeding and foraging.

PROUDLY SERVING CITIES IN LOS ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

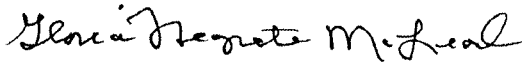
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



The Trails and Riparian Restoration Project is part of the broader Cucamonga Creek Watershed Regional Water Quality Project, which is spearheaded by the City of Ontario and supported by the City of Chino, the County of San Bernardino, the Inland Empire Utilities Agencies (IEUA), the Orange County Water District (OCWD), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The project's unique regional approach is also supported by the State Water Resources Control Board through grant funding and is an integral part of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's (SAWPA) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, "One Water, One Watershed" (OWOW).

I appreciate the hard work that you and your staff at the Resources Agency have done in formulating the requirements for the Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant. I look forward to the Resources Agency and the City of Ontario working together to implement the Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project.

Respectfully,



Gloria Negrete McLeod
32nd Senate District

DIRECTORS

CLAUDIA C. ALVAREZ, ESQ.
PHILIP L. ANTHONY
DON BANKHEAD
KATHRYN L. BARR
DENIS R. BILODEAU, P.E.
SHAWN DEWANE
CATHY GREEN
IRV PICKLER
STEPHEN R. SHELDON
ROGER C. YOH, P.E.



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

OFFICERS

President
CLAUDIA C. ALVAREZ, ESQ.

First Vice President
PHILIP L. ANTHONY

Second Vice President
DON BANKHEAD

General Manager
MICHAEL R. MARKUS, P.E.

October 14, 2011

Secretary John Laird
Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: City of Ontario Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant

Dear Secretary Laird,

I am writing to support the City of Ontario's Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant application for the Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project, which is a unique multi-jurisdictional opportunity to restore native riparian and upland ecosystems in the Prado Basin while enhancing recreational and educational uses as part of a regional watershed management plan.

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) has been working for several years with the City of Ontario on projects in the Cucamonga Creek Watershed, Prado Basin, and the Santa Ana River Watershed.

Hiking and equestrian trails will be constructed for public use, providing visitors with wildlife viewing areas adjacent to the existing abundant habitat along Cucamonga / Mill Creek along with the project's restored habitat.

Consistent with the grant requirements and goals, the project's Recreational Plan provides for the addition of passive recreation opportunities in the Prado Basin by incorporating approximately 3.5 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, forming a looped trail system adjacent to the existing habitat along Cucamonga / Mill Creek and around vegetated and open water ponds. The proposed trail system includes benches in locations that offer vistas of the surrounding riparian and upland environment. Funding for the trails and riparian habitat will restore native plantings that will attract numerous wildlife species, offering excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors from throughout the region and beyond.

The Project will restore approximately 23 acres of native upland and riparian habitat through the use of native planting and the replacement of non-native vegetation,

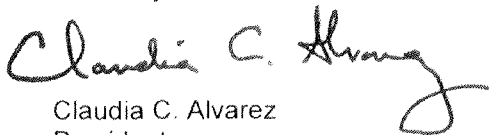
Secretary John Laird
October 14, 2011
Page 2 of 2

agricultural lands, and disturbed areas with high quality native vegetation. The Native Habitat Plan creates planting zones that will benefit local wildlife, including endangered species, by utilizing plant species that promote nesting, breeding and foraging. The restored riparian habitat will include species such as willows, mulefat, cottonwoods, and Mexican elderberry. Riparian vegetation provides habitat for a variety of species, including the Federal and State listed endangered least Bell's vireo. The upland habitat restoration will include large tree species such as oaks, walnuts, sycamores and toyon, and an understory consisting of shrubs, perennials, and native grasses in varying densities in support of a variety of native species.

The Trails and Riparian Restoration Project would be part of the broader Cucamonga Creek Watershed Regional Water Quality Project, which is spearheaded by the City of Ontario and supported by the City of Chino, the County of San Bernardino, the Inland Empire Utilities Agencies (IEUA), OCWD, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The project's unique regional approach is also supported by the State Water Resources Control Board through grant funding and is an integral part of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's (SAWPA) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, "One Water, One Watershed" (OWOW).

I recognize the hard work that you and your staff at the Resources Agency has done to formulate the solicitation for the Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant, and I look forward to the Resources Agency and the City of Ontario working together to implement the Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project, which offers lasting environmental and recreational benefits for Californians from throughout the state to enjoy and appreciate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claudia C. Alvarez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Claudia C. Alvarez
President



Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF INNOVATION, VISION, AND WATERSHED LEADERSHIP

October 14, 2011

Terry Catlin
Commission
Chair

Secretary John Laird
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Celeste Cantú
General
Manager

**RE: City of Ontario Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project
Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant**

Dear Secretary Laird:

Eastern
Municipal
Water
District

I am writing to support the City of Ontario's Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant application for the Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project, which is a unique multi-jurisdictional opportunity to restore native riparian and upland ecosystems in the Prado Basin while enhancing recreational and educational uses as part of a regional watershed management plan. Hiking and equestrian trails will be constructed for public use, providing visitors with wildlife viewing areas adjacent to the existing abundant habitat along Cucamonga/Mill Creek, along with the project's restored habitat.

Inland
Empire
Utilities
Agency

This project is consistent with the goals and objectives of OWOW, the One Water One Watershed IRWMP for the Santa Ana Watershed.

Orange
County
Water
District

Consistent with the grant requirements and goals, the project's Recreational Plan provides for the addition of passive recreation opportunities in the Prado Basin by incorporating approximately 3.5 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, forming a looped trail system adjacent to the existing habitat along Cucamonga /Mill Creek and around vegetated and open water ponds. The proposed trail system includes benches in locations that offer vistas of the surrounding riparian and upland environment. Funding for the trails and riparian habitat will restore native plantings that will attract numerous wildlife species, offering excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors from throughout the region and beyond.

San
Bernardino
Valley
Municipal
Water
District

Western
Municipal
Water
District

The Project will restore approximately 23 acres of native upland and riparian habitat through the use of native planting and the replacement of non-native vegetation, agricultural lands, and disturbed areas with high quality native vegetation. The Native Habitat Plan creates planting zones that will benefit local wildlife, including endangered species, by utilizing plant species that promote nesting, breeding and foraging. The restored riparian habitat will include species such as willows, mulefat, cottonwoods, and Mexican elderberry. Riparian vegetation provides habitat for a variety of species, including the Federal and State listed endangered least Bell's vireo. The upland habitat restoration will include large tree species such as oaks, walnuts, sycamores and toyon, and an understory consisting of shrubs, perennials, and native grasses in varying densities in support of a variety of native species.

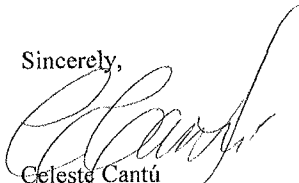


Secretary John Laird
October 14, 2011
Page 2

The Trails and Riparian Restoration Project would be part of the broader Cucamonga Creek Watershed Regional Water Quality Project, which is spearheaded by the City of Ontario and supported by the City of Chino, the County of San Bernardino, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, the Orange County Water District, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The project's unique regional approach is also supported by the State Water Resources Control Board through grant funding, and is an integral part of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's (SAWPA) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, "One Water, One Watershed" (OWOW).

I recognize the hard work that you and your staff have done at the Resources Agency to formulate the solicitation for the Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant, and I look forward to the Resources Agency and the City of Ontario working together to implement the Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project, which offers lasting environmental and recreational benefits for Californians from throughout the State to enjoy and appreciate.

Sincerely,



Celeste Cantú
General Manager

CC:dm

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0061
(916) 319-2061
FAX (916) 319-2161

DISTRICT OFFICE
13160 7TH STREET
CHINO, CA 91710
(909) 902-9808
(909) 902-9761

E-MAIL
assemblymember.torres@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly
California Legislature



NORMA J. TORRES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
BANKING AND FINANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE

October 12, 2011

The Honorable John Laird, Secretary
Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Strong Support for City of Ontario Prop 84: River Parkways Grant

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to support the City of Ontario's Prop 84: River Parkways grant application for the Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project (CCTRRP), which is a unique multi-jurisdictional opportunity to restore native riparian and upland ecosystems in the Prado Basin while enhancing recreational and educational uses as part of a regional watershed management plan. The proposed project will provide for the restoration of riparian and upland habitat, which is currently in a degraded state due to past agricultural activities and illegal dumping. Hiking and equestrian trails will be constructed for public use, providing visitors with wildlife viewing areas adjacent to the existing abundant habitat along Mill Creek as well as the project's restored habitat.

Consistent with the grant requirements and goals, the CCTRRP's Recreational Plan provides for the addition of passive recreation opportunities in the Prado Basin by incorporating approximately 3.3 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, forming a looped trail system adjacent to the existing habitat along Mill Creek and around vegetated and open water ponds. The proposed trail system includes benches in locations that offer vistas of the surrounding riparian and upland environment. Funding for the trails and riparian habitat will restore native plantings that will attract numerous wildlife species, offering excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors from throughout the region and beyond.

The CCTRRP will restore acres of native upland and riparian habitat through the use of native planting and the replacement of non-native vegetation, agricultural lands, and disturbed areas with high quality native vegetation. The CCTRRP's Native Habitat Plan creates planting zones that will benefit local wildlife, including endangered species, by utilizing plant species that promote nesting, breeding and foraging. The restored riparian habitat will include species such as willows, mulefat, cottonwoods, and Mexican elderberry. Riparian vegetation provides habitat for a variety of species, including the Federal and State listed endangered least Bell's vireo. The upland habitat restoration will include large tree species such as oaks, walnuts, sycamores and



Printed on Recycled Paper

toyon, and an understory consisting of shrubs, perennials, and native grasses in varying densities in support of a variety of native species.

The CCTRRP will be part of the broader Cucamonga Creek Watershed Regional Water Quality Project, which is spearheaded by the City of Ontario and supported by the City of Chino, the County of San Bernardino, the Inland Empire Utilities Agencies, the Orange County Water District, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The CCTRRP's unique regional approach is also supported by the State Water Resources Control Board through grant funding and is an integral part of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, "One Water, One Watershed".

I recognize the hard work that you and your staff at the Resources Agency has done to formulate the solicitation for the Prop 84: River Parkways Grant, and I look forward to the Resources Agency and the City of Ontario working together to implement the **Cucamonga Creek Trails and Riparian Restoration Project**, which offers lasting environmental and recreational benefits for Californians from throughout the state to enjoy and appreciate.

Sincerely,



NORMA J. TORRES
Assemblymember, 61st District

STATE CAPITAL
ROOM 4074
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4900
TEL. 916. 651-4022
FAX. 916. 445-0128

822 N. EUCLID AVENUE
SUITE A
ONTARIO, CA 91762
TEL. (909) 988-7721
FAX. (909) 981-6655

357 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 1
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401
TEL. (909) 381-3832
FAX. (909) 381-0739

505 S. GAREY AVENUE
POMONA, CA 91766
TEL. (909) 465-9525
FAX. (909) 465-9206

California State Senate

SENATOR
NELL SOTO
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT & RETIREMENT
CHIEF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIR
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING
SELECT COMMITTEES:
PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION
CHIEF
URBAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CHIEF
CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING INDUSTRY
CALIFORNIA MEXICO COOPERATION
COLORADO RIVER
GOVERNMENT COST CONTROL
RETIREMENT INVESTMENT PROTECTION
& CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY
JOINT COMMITTEES:
EMERGENCY SERVICES & HOMELAND
SECURITY
COMMISSIONS:
CALIFORNIA COMMISSION FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA SUPER SPEED
TRAIN COMMISSION

June 2, 2006

City of Ontario
Office of City Engineer
303 B Street
Ontario, California 91764

To the City of Ontario:

This letter is to support your efforts to improve water quality by constructing the Mill Creek Wetland Water Treatment System ("Mill Creek Wetland"). Please forward this letter to the State Water Resources Control Board to encourage their approval of your grant application to assist this project.

The State Senate has passed numerous bills highlighting the positive aspects of wetland and open space conservation. Still, much can be done at local levels throughout the state to implement the construction of wetland water treatment facilities. I am pleased that the City of Ontario has taken the initiative to implement such a plan.

Construction plans for the Mill Creek Wetland and current implementation efforts were first brought to my attention last year. Since that time, my staff and I have been working closely with the City of Ontario and your surrounding communities at various levels of interest and involvement. We applaud Ontario's priority to build this wetland and your commitment to fund most of this project with private contributions.

Construction of the Mill Creek Wetland is an excellent project for our state. This type of healthful and environmentally sound project should be supported to enhance the natural beauty of our communities, to promote the health of our citizens, and to provide lasting water treatment for generations to come.

Page 2

Working with the State and Regional Water Boards, Ontario's knowledgeable project team will realize its goal and role of effective, sustainable stewardship of the natural resources that the Mill Creek Wetland will create. In addition to improved water, this project will provide natural beauty and a valuable cultural resource for local families and visitors. I sincerely hope the SWRCB will see fit to partner with Ontario to make this important initiative, the Mill Creek Wetland, an example of natural water treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nell Soto', written in a cursive style.

NELL SOTO
Senator, 32nd District

**Board of Supervisors
County of San Bernardino**

**GARY C. OVITT
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT**



June 6, 2006

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

SUBJECT: MILL CREEK WETLAND

I am writing to support funding of the City of Ontario's Mill Creek Wetland project, a natural water treatment system. Mill Creek is a tributary to the Santa Ana River and part of the Santa Ana River Watershed Basin. The basin covers approximately 2,800 square miles in southern California.

Construction of the 200-acre Mill Creek Wetland would significantly reduce the 303(d) listed pollutants in the Santa Ana River Watershed Basin, improve air quality, and mitigate non-point sources of the water quality problems converging in the Chino Basin, a subwatershed of the greater basin. Fortunately, the degraded surface water and ground water can be treated in this manner, improving both the decades old agricultural runoff, mainly from dairy operations, as well as recent issues of urban stormwater runoff.

The San Bernardino County Public Works Department, as the facilitating agency for our Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, is currently working with other stakeholders to establish the Mill Creek Wetlands as an alternate, natural means of water purification. This project would create ideal wetland habitat to include deep pools, perennial flows and dense wetland vegetation. The department has been a strong supporter of the constructed wetland effort on Mill Creek. Over the last few years, we have cooperated with the incorporated cities within the county to implement the San Bernardino Stormwater Program, in compliance with our jointly held stormwater permit – the principle policy and guidance document for the NPDES Stormwater Program.

In addition, the Mill Creek Wetland would comply with the Santa Ana River Basin Plan. The plan documents the beneficial uses of the region's ground and surface waters, existing water quality control conditions, problems, goals, and actions by the Regional Board and cooperating agencies to achieve and maintain water quality standards.

As is evident, San Bernardino County stands committed to fostering wetland water treatment resources. I strongly recommend that the State Water Resources Control Board approve the City of Ontario's application for funding of the Mill Creek Wetland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Ovitt".

Gary Ovitt
Supervisor, 4th District
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

Directors
PHILIP L. ANTHONY
WES BANNISTER
KATHRYN L. BARR
DENIS R. BILODEAU
RICHARD CHAVEZ
JAN DEBAY
SHAWN NELSON
STEPHEN R. SHELDON
JOSE SOLORIO
ROGER C. YOH



Officers
PHILIP L. ANTHONY
President
JAN DEBAY
First Vice President
KATHRYN L. BARR
Second Vice President
—
VIRGINIA GREBBIEN
General Manager

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Orange County's Groundwater Authority


May 24, 2006

John Sullivan
City Engineer
City of Ontario
303 E. B Street
Ontario, CA 91764

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 40 GRANT FUNDING FOR
CITY OF ONTARIO'S PROPOSED MILL CREEK WETLAND
NATURAL TREATMENT SYSTEM

Enclosed is one certified copy of the Resolution adopted by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) Board of Directors at its meeting held May 17, 2006.

Sincerely,


Janice Durant
District Secretary

Enclosure

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 40 GRANT FUNDING FOR
CITY OF ONTARIO'S PROPOSED MILL CREEK WETLAND
NATURAL TREATMENT SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Orange County Water District utilizes the Santa Ana River as the primary source of water to recharge the Orange County Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, Mill Creek is a tributary to the Santa Ana River; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Water District has adopted a long-term goal to provide wetlands treatment for baseflow in each of the tributaries to the Santa Ana River in the Prado Basin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ontario is proposing to construct the Mill Creek Wetlands Natural Treatment System (project), a 150- to 200-acre wetland near Prado Basin designed to treat water from Mill Creek as mitigation for development planned in the City of Ontario by the New Model Colonies Builders; and

WHEREAS, the proposed wetland would perform a critical role in achieving the priorities of the Santa Ana River Watershed Management Area by measurably reducing pollutants in the watershed, improving water quality, and mitigating nonpoint source pollution in the Chino Basin; and

WHEREAS, in the steadily urbanizing environment of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, it is important to conserve significant acreage for healthy plant and wildlife diversity; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such water quality and wildlife benefits, the Mill Creek Wetland Natural Treatment System would serve as a site to educate and inspire the local community to conserve natural resources, and would serve as a place for citizens to reconnect to nature; and

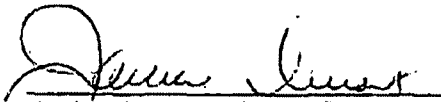
WHEREAS, the City of Ontario has requested support from the Orange County Water District for its proposal to pursue up to \$5 million in Proposition 40 grant funding for the proposed wetland; and

WHEREAS, the New Model Colonies Builders has committed \$19,838,959 to the project and stated that Proposition 40 grant funding would not reduce the financial commitments made by the New Model Colonies Builders to the project and the grant funding provides additional resources to the project that allow for enhancements such as increasing the wetland size or increasing multi-use opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Orange County Water District does hereby express its support for the City of Ontario's proposal to the State of California for up to \$5 million in Proposition 40 grant funding through the Integrated Watershed Management Program for the proposed Mill Creek Wetland Natural Treatment System, provided that the grant funding does not reduce the financial commitments made by the New Model Colonies Builders to the Mill Creek Wetland and the grant funding provides additional resources to the project that allow for enhancements such as increasing the wetland size or increasing multi-use opportunities.

CERTIFICATION OF BOARD ACTION

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution is a full, true and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Orange County Water District at its meeting held on May 17, 2006, and that such Resolution is now in full force and effect.


Janice Durant, District Secretary

5-25-06
Date

TRANSMITTAL

City of Ontario

Attention: John Sullivan, City Engineer

Attention: Jay Clark, STANTEC

Date: June 5, 2006

c/o Jay Clark, STANTEC

3105 East Guasti Road

Suite 100

Ontario, CA 91761

Resolution No. 2006-5-5

The Ontario Treatment

SUBJECT: Wetlands

ATTN: John Sullivan, City Engineer

The following items are: Requested; Enclosed; Sent separately via

Report Blueprints Documents Correspondence
 Specifications Other (CD)

No. of
Copies

DESCRIPTION

1 Resolution No. 2006-5-5: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of The Inland Empire
Utilities Agency, San Bernardino County, California, supporting the development of
The Ontario Treatment Wetlands

This data is submitted:

At your request For your action For your approval
 For your file For your review For your information

General Remarks:

Very Truly Yours,

Eliza Jane Whitman
Manager of Planning and Water Resources
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-5-5

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY*, SAN
BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ONTARIO TREATMENT
WETLANDS**

WHEREAS, the City of Ontario has developed a project that uses natural treatment systems to improve water quality;

WHEREAS, the City of Ontario would like to add other features to the project to enhance ecological function, and recreation;

WHEREAS, the City of Ontario has and continues to review their plans with local and regional stakeholders; and

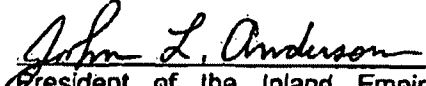
WHEREAS, the City of Ontario is submitting a grant application to assist with ecological and recreational features for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of IEUA does hereby resolve, determine and order as follows:


Section 1: That the Board of Directors declares its support for the City of Ontario's Treatment Wetlands Project:

Section 2: That the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to transmit copies of the resolution to the City of Ontario for inclusion in their grant application.

ADOPTED this 17th day of May, 2006.


President of the Inland Empire
Utilities Agency* and of the Board of
Directors thereof

ATTEST:


Secretary/Treasurer of the Inland Empire
Utilities Agency* and of the Board of Directors
Thereof

*A Municipal Water District

L

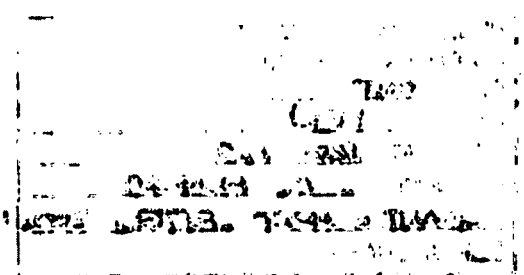
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)SS
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO)

I, Gene Koopman, Secretary/Treasurer of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency*, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution being No. 2006-5-5, was adopted at a regular Board Meeting on May 17, 2006, of said Agency by the following vote:

AYES: Santiago, Troxel, Anderson, Catlin, Koopman
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None


Secretary/Treasurer

*A Municipal Water District



Champion Newspapers

Chino Champion • Chino Hills Champion

NEWS

Wet by design Mill Creek project aims for clean water, wildlife

Print Page

Published: Friday, November 1, 2013 6:05 AM PDT

Just wait. In a year, the abandoned concrete wash/feed pads, manure spreading grounds, the fencing, the tattered roads, the scattered debris from illegal dumping, all the old monuments of the Mill Creek Wetlands in Chino's agricultural past, will be gone.

They will be replaced by large basins and a diversion dyke that catches urban runoff water and cleans it so it'll be pleasant enough to support fish and attract fowl.

Planners also believe this water filtration system, which they call "cutting edge," will provide opportunities for recreation and education because it will have walking trails and landscaping throughout.

The project is called the Mill Creek Wetlands Recreation and Restoration Demonstration Project. Manmade, though run by nature, the project will use gravity, sunlight and plant life to clean and move the water.

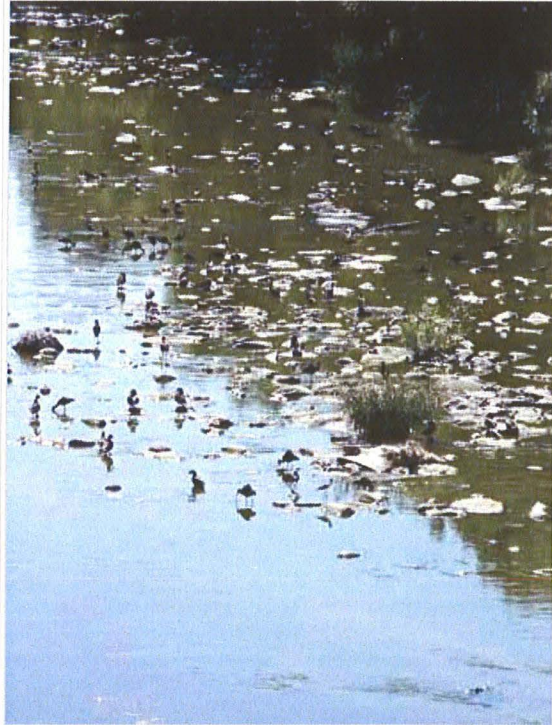
Otto Kroutil, development director for the City of Ontario, calls the Mill Creek project an attempt to mimic Mother Nature's process for cleaning water.

"It's a cutting edge water quality project," Mr. Kroutil said. "We're quite proud of it, actually."

Mill Creek Wetlands Recreation and Restoration Demonstration Project encompasses 47 acres in Chino along Chino Corona Road within the El Prado Basin. It's loosely bordered by California Institution for Women, Hellman Avenue and the El Prado Dam, said Louis Abi-Younes, Ontario's city engineer.

Mr. Kroutil said most had been fallow farmland until construction began last summer.

The \$16 million environmental project – funding came from...**For MORE** click [HERE](#) to login



Wild fowl are abundant in Mill Creek above the inlet for the demonstration project.