



Santa Ana River Trail Project Value and Location

Growth in the Inland Empire

A satellite photo of the Los Angeles Basin makes it clear that the Santa Ana River is one of the prime recreational resources for the Inland Empire. Its wealth of native vegetation and animals, and the numerous adjacent historic sites and parks that line the river's shores, provide a satisfying setting in which to enjoy a hike or ride. A trip up the Santa Ana River corridor traces the rich agricultural, ethnic, architectural, transportation and power generating history of the region. Federal, State, regional and local parks further enhance the value of the River corridor, providing a wide variety of recreational activities and experiences. Completing the Santa Ana River Trail will be a large step in the preservation and enrichment of this recreational heritage.



The Santa Ana River is one of the prime recreational resources for the Inland Empire

Growth in the Inland Empire



Located in the northeastern quadrant of the greater Los Angeles Basin, the Inland Empire is expected to experience growth that exceeds that of most states. Growth projections show that, over the next decade, Inland Empire growth will exceed that of all states except California, Texas and Florida. With growth will come the increased responsibility to preserve and protect valuable natural resources and to provide a healthy and enriching environment in which to enjoy recreational activities.

Project Leadership Group

Elected Officials

- Office of Congressman Ken Calvert
- Office of Congressman Jerry Lewis
- Office of Assemblyman John Longville
- Office of Supervisor Tavaglione (Riverside)
- Office of Supervisor Coad (Orange)
- Office of Supervisor Aguiar (Riverside)
- Ron Loveridge, Mayor City of Riverside

County Parks Departments

- Kevin Thomas, Director Orange County Harbors, Beaches & Parks
- Paul Frandsen, General Manager Riverside Regional Park and Open-Space District
- Tom Potter, Director San Bernardino County Regional Parks Department

Utilities / Flood Control

- Richard W. Atwater Chief Executive Officer & General Mgr Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Martha Davis Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Richard Zembal, Natural Resources Director Orange County Water District
- Jerry King, Board of Directors SAWPA and OCWD
- Joe Grindstaff, General Mgr SAWPA
- Daniel Cozad, Deputy General Mgr SAWPA

Other

- David Myers The Wildlands Conservancy
- Rick Davis, Senior Vice President The Dolphin Group



Santa Ana River Trail

History of the Santa Ana River Trail

History of the Trail

In the 1960's enthusiasm was generated by men and women in all three Counties to build a trail along the Santa Ana River corridor from the ocean to the mountains. In the 1970's this enthusiasm was translated into action in Orange County which proceeded to build most of the Trail, completing it up to Green River Golf Course. In addition Riverside County purchased the river bottom necessary to complete a majority of the Trail in Riverside County. The economic downturn of the 1980's halted the progress of the trail, until the three Counties organized an effort to create a plan for completion of the river - the 1990 EDAW plan. Just as things were taking off again another recession caused a lapse in trail building. With the economic swing of the late 1990's enthusiasm once again brought leaders back together to complete the trail.

Completion of the Trail

Trail building momentum has once again been generated under the leadership of Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA). In the last two years San Bernardino County has obtained funding for half of its remaining trail, Riverside County has funded the segment from Market to the County line and they have both built some of these segments and are working on the remainder. There are, however, several segments of the Santa Ana River Trail for which funding has not yet been obtained, including:

Trail

- Gypsum Canyon Road to Prado Dam
- Prado Dam Loop
- Corona and Norco segments
- Segment west of Martha McLean Park to Hidden Valley Wildlife Area
- Riverwash Loop

Bikeway

- Green River Golf Course to Prado Dam
- Prado Dam Loop
- Corona and Norco segments
- Pave Hidden Valley Wildlife Area
- Segment west of Martha McLean Park to Hidden Valley Wildlife Area
- Riverwash Loop

In 2001 the planning team has directed much of its effort at coordinating work between agencies and locating funding for completion of the project - in particular, for time-sensitive segments of the project that need to be coordinated with work proposed by local agencies. The main three of these include the Army Corps of Engineers' Prado Dam raising project, Orange County Flood Control District flood control efforts at Green River Golf Course and Caltrans' Interstate 71 widening. An important aspect of the current planning effort is locating funding for these segments of the Trail in time to coordinate planning efforts. Failure to coordinate planning would result in higher costs, possible gaps in the Trail and the loss of important linkages.

Coordination of the Trail with the Army Corps' Prado Dam raising project will save money and result in a better trail alignment.



Planning Participants

Counties

- Orange County Harbors, Beaches & Parks
- Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District
- San Bernardino County Regional Parks Division

Cities

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Anaheim | Norco |
| Santa Ana | Riverside |
| Chino | San Bernardino |
| Chino Hills | Highland |
| Corona | Redlands |

Agencies

- State of California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Caltrans
- Orange County Flood Control District
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- California Department of Fish and Game

Private Entities

- The Dangermond Group
- ESRI

Non-Profits

- Trails-4-All
- The Wildlands Conservancy
- Riverside Land Conservancy

Key sources of potential funds, include Federal water and transportation funds, State parks and water funds, local County and City funds and funding from non-profit organizations. Parks and Water legislation, to be decided in the upcoming elections in March and November, have been targeted as potential sources of funding for completion of the Trail. In addition the Army Corps of Engineers has been authorized to support recreational facilities with 50% matching funds from Prado Dam east along the Santa Ana River.



Santa Ana River Trail

Historic Destinations along the Trail

Southern California's mild climate, harbors, rivers, alluvial soils and flat terrain provided an ideal location for Native American hunting and gathering activities, and later, for early pioneer's agricultural development and ranching. Over time the farms and ranches attracted small towns and cities, and these settlements were linked by private rail lines. Hydroelectric plants were built in the canyons to capture energy from the water rushing down from the mountains. Drove of people were attracted to the warm climate, and with them came money to build civic buildings and homes designed by some of the finest architects of their time. With the popularity of the automobile came an ever increasing network of roads and population. The history of Southern California is written in the remnants of the buildings, groves, vineyards, bridges, roads and power plants adjacent to the Santa Ana River Corridor.

Architecture

Many fine examples of architecture proliferate along the Santa Ana River Trail. A wide variety of architectural styles can be found in the Cities adjacent to the Santa Ana River, including Mission and Spanish revival Craftsman and Queen Anne/Victorian architecture, to name a few.



The restored Yorba-Slaughter Adobe adjacent to Prado Basin, is one of the oldest standing residences in San Bernardino County

Transportation

In the late 1850's the Butterfield Stage line delivered mail and passengers from the east coast to Southern California, with a stage stop in Corona, near Prado Basin. But by the late 1800's the stage had been replaced with the railroad. Local travel underwent a similar metamorphosis with the advent of the electric railway 20-30 years later, lasting until the 1950's, when the popularity of the automobile and declining riderships caused the owners to sell the tracks, and automobiles became a way of life in Southern California. With the increasing population came gridlock and the reintroduction of rail-based public transit.

Visitors can still appreciate the romance of the old Trolley Bridge and Greenspot Bridge in San Bernardino, as well as the Railroad Depot in Riverside.

Water Management

The Santa Ana River watershed has many faces. In addition to serving as a source of water for the growing Inland Empire, it is also a source of hydro-electric power. Its tendency towards seasonal flooding has resulted in two large dams, Prado Dam and 7-Oaks. Current efforts, under the leadership of SAWPA include conservation efforts directed at water quality and habitat preservation as well as planning appropriate recreational uses that showcase the river and provide a place for people to enjoy this wonderful resource.



The existing Prado Dam was built in 1939 to control flooding of the Santa Ana River in Orange County

Nearby Facilities

Architectural

- Jensen-Alvarado Ranch
- Mission Inn
- Trujillo Adobe
- All Souls Universalist Church
- First Church of Christ Scientist
- 1st Congregational Church
- Bettner Heritage House
- M.H. Simon Undertaking Chapel
- OldYWCA Building
- Riverside County Courthouse
- Riverside Federal Post Office
- Riverside Municipal Auditorium and Soldiers' Memorial
- Corona Theater
- Women's Improvement Club - Corona

Transportation

- Butterfield Stage Route in Prado Basin
- Old Trolley Bridge
- Greenspot Bridge
- San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Depot
- Burlington Northern Tracks west of Prado Dam

Water Management / Power Generation

- Prado Dam
- 7-Oaks Dam
- Hydro-electric power in Santa Ana and Mill Creek Canyons and Riverside

Agriculture

- Citrus Experiment Station
- Riverside-Arlington heights Fruit Exchange
- Sutherland Fruit Company Packing House



Santa Ana River Trail Recreational Destinations

Connecting Parks

When completed, the 110 mile long Santa Ana River bicycling, riding and hiking trail will extend from the Pacific Ocean to the San Bernardino Mountains, providing recreational and commuting opportunities in three Counties. Visitors will be able to bicycle or ride from the Bolsa Chica State Ecological Reserve to the newly forming San Timoteo Canyon State Park, enjoying Huntington Beach State Park, Chino Hills State Park including Coal Canyon, Prado Basin and the Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve along the way.

The Hidden Valley Wildlife Center provides visitors with information about the River

Developing opportunities for hands-on nature experiences is an important component of the Trail planning effort



International Destination

The Santa Ana River Trail's accessibility to the Metrolink system connects destinations throughout the region, including Los Angeles, Ontario, and Burbank Airports. Visitors from all over the world can visit Disneyland, enjoy a game at the Pond or Edison Field, play in the ocean, hike trails in the mountains, eat dinner at the world class Mission Inn, and climb Mt. Rubidoux, to name a few, using bicycles for transportation. For those who wish to spend more time exploring the trail, hotel accommodations are available at locations along the trail and camping is available at Featherly and Jurupa Regional Parks.



Visitors enjoy the sunset from the multi-use trail at Huntington State Beach

The Trail's proximity to Edison Field in Anaheim offers a great opportunity for a family outing



Nearby Facilities

State Parks

Existing:

Bolsa Chica State Ecological Reserve
Huntington State Beach
Chino Hills State Park with Coal Canyon

In Progress:

San Timoteo Canyon State Park

Federal Flood Basin & Recreation Area

Prado Basin

Regional Parks

Existing:

Talbert Regional Park
Centennial Regional Park
Yorba Regional Park
Featherly Regional Park
Prado Regional Park
Santa Ana River Regional Park

Proposed:

Jurupa Valley River Regional Park

Local Parks

Fairview Park
Aevalos Park
Edna Park
Riverdale Park
Butterfield Stage Trail Park
Rivertrails Park
Martha McLean Anza Narrow Park
Mt. Rubidoux Park
Fairmont Park
Redlands Sports Complex

Nature Preserves

Talbert Nature Preserve
Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve

Points of Interest

Edison Field
Arrowhead Pond
Disneyland
Mission Inn
Mt Rubidoux



Santa Ana River Trail Natural Features of the River

Prado Basin

All riparian areas in Southern California are considered sensitive, especially willow woodland (with or without co-dominants such as cottonwood or sycamore). It is believed that nearly 90 percent of all riparian habitats (especially willow and cottonwood riparian woodlands) in California have been lost in the past century. The extensive willow woodland in the Basin is the largest of its kind remaining in Southern California. A well designed trail will provide an opportunity for visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of this special place.

The willow and cottonwood riparian habitat in Prado Basin is the largest in Southern California



Riverside County

Under the leadership of Riverside County Parks staff, large portions of the arundo have been removed from the river and the habitat has been enhanced, helping to restore the flow of the river and providing habitat for a wide variety of animals. A trip down the adjacent trail provides a great introduction to the river.



Arundo removal has restored the river to its serene and beautiful condition

Riverwash Loop

Among the species that have benefited from the habitat conservation efforts along the Santa Ana River in the Riverwash Loop area are the Woolly Star and the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat. A loop trail north and south of the river will help protect these valuable resources, and offer an opportunity to enhance the existing habitat.



In Spring fields of woolly stars paint the landscape from Norton AFB to the San Bernardino Mountains

Biological Resources

- 23 species of mammals
- 13 species of reptiles
- 7 species of amphibians
- 200 species of birds
- 15 species of fish

Federal Endangered Species

- Southwestern willow flycatcher
- Least Bell's vireo
- Coastal California gnatcatcher
- Western Yello-billed Cuckoo
- Swainson' Hawk
- Santa Ana sucker
- California red-legged frog
- Santa Ana River Woolly Star

State Fully Protected

- White-tailed kite
- Golden eagle

Vegetation

- Herbaceous Riparian
- Freshwater Marsh
- Riverine
- Riparian Scrub
- Willow Woodland
- Annual Grassland
- Cottonwood-Willow Riparian
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Oak Woodland
- Eucalyptus
- Arundo Scrub



Santa Ana River Trail

Progress - Pacific Ocean to Prado Basin

Under the leadership of the Santa Ana Watershed Authority (SAWPA), substantial progress has been made toward realizing the completion of the Santa Ana River Trail and Greenway. With the help of SAWPA's Trail Coordinator, the Dangermond Group, representatives from the three Counties and adjacent Cities were joined by staff from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Caltrans and the Army Corps of Engineers, State parks and other agencies. The team worked together to evaluate potential trail alignments and funding mechanisms and ensure that the Trail is built in harmony with surrounding habitats. The following is a summary of some of the highlights of the 2000-2001 planning effort.

Ground Truthing and Cost Estimates

Ground truthing and preliminary cost estimates for the remaining segments of the trail were developed.

State Parks Purchased Land

The team has contacted State Parks regarding the potential for a trail easement over a portion of their recent 32 acre acquisition between Gypsum Canyon Road and Green River Golf Course. Also, under discussion is the possibility of visitor use facilities and a trail access point at the recent State Parks acquisition west of Prado Dam.



A potential route for the Santa Ana River Trail is at the bottom of the slope, adjacent to the railroad tracks along the northern perimeter of Green River Golf

Prado Basin

Staff members from 3 Counties, Corona, Chino, Chino Hills and State Parks, working with Army Corps of Engineers staff developed a tentative alignment for the Trail through Prado Basin. In a joint meeting with Colonel Thompson he pledged his support of Santa Ana River Trail elements in Prado Basin. To proceed further, the Corps has requested local sponsorship agreements and funding for the Trail.

Caltrans Engineers have approved the feasibility of a separated bike trail connection adjacent to State Route 71. They will have their staff review environmental impacts and, if there are no major conflicts, the plan will be forwarded to Anne Meyers, Caltrans District 8 Director for preliminary approval. After approval the next step will be to obtain funding

A separated Bike trail adjacent to State Route 71 would provide access to the proposed new entry to Chino Hills State Park



Trail Construction

Completion of Santa Ana River Trail tread from Mission Avenue to Market Street

Bluff stabilization on the south bank of the Santa Ana River by COE at Hamner Avenue in Norco, including grading for the bicycle trail

Planning

Ground Truthing of 1990 Santa Ana River Plan

Completion of map and photo exhibits in support of the Santa Ana River Trail

Preliminary Cost Estimates for Trail and Amenities

Preliminary Conceptual Alignment Studies for Prado Basin

Presentation to California Bicycle Advisory Committee regarding Bike trail adjacent to State Route 71

Feasibility studies of Bike trail adjacent to State Route 71, linking Santa Ana River Trail to proposed new entry to Chino Hills State Park

Funding

The Santa Ana River Trail, Mission Avenue to Alabama Street, was funded

The City of Norco submitted a \$425,000 TEA grant application for the Santa Ana River Trail from Old Hamner Rd. to Pedley Ave. (cont.)



Santa Ana River Trail

Progress - Prado Basin to 7-Oaks Dam

Funding for Mission Blvd. to County Line

Thanks to the hard work of Riverside County Parks staff, the Santa Ana River Trail segment from Mission Blvd to Market Street is now open. They are currently involved in public hearings as part of the planning process for completion of the Market Street to County Line segment for which funding has been secured.



Paving the existing maintenance road at Market St. will allow it to do double duty as a bike trail

Funding for County Line to Alabama St.

Completion of the Trail is closer to reality due to the efforts of San Bernardino County Parks staff. They have been successful in obtaining \$5.1 million from SanBAG, \$574,000 from San



Incorporating the Old Trolley Bridge into the Trail will add value and interest to the project

Bernardino County and \$912,000 from the Wildlands Conservancy for completion of trail segments from La Cadena Dr. to Alabama St. They are waiting notification regarding BTA \$475,000 grant application to complete the County line to La Cadena Dr. segment.

Wildlands Conservancy

The Wildlands Conservancy, working with the San Bernardino Parks Department, began construction of an interpretive area and loop trail, showcasing native plants in downtown San Bernardino adjacent to the River

Additional Funding Efforts

The City of Norco submitted a TEA grant application in the amount of \$450,000 for the segment of the Trail from Old Hamner Road to Pedley Avenue.

Ned Ibrahim and Jonathan Jones from the City of Corona, submitted a Caltrans Community Planning Grant application on behalf of the Santa Ana River Trail, requesting \$200,000 for master planning purposes. Grant recipients are expected to be announced in early February.

Funding (cont.)

Submittal of request to Congressmen Calvert and Lewis for \$22,000,000

Submittal of request for \$6,000,000 to Wildlife Conservation Board

Submittal of Caltrans Community Planning Grant in the amount of \$200,000

Inclusion of language in the PCL Transportation Initiative for \$1,000,000 a year for the Santa Ana River Trail in Riverside

Agency Coordination

Meeting with Colonel Thompson of Corps to obtain his support

Coordination with Corps staff regarding coordination with the Prado Dam raising efforts

Coordination with Orange County Flood Control District regarding Green River Golf Course

Coordination with Caltrans staff regarding State Route 71 widening project

Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding trail alignments in Prado Basin

Coordination with Orange County Water District regarding trail alignments in Prado Basin

Coordination with California State Parks regarding development of visitor use facilities and trail access points

Other

Completion of map and photo exhibits in support of the Santa Ana River Trail



Santa Ana River Trail

Future Segments - Pacific Ocean to Prado Basin

Trail Landscaping

In southern Orange County, the Army Corps of Engineer provided landscaping, utilizing a pallette of indigenous plants along the Santa Ana River Trail. It is a tremendous success. The Corps is authorized to complete the landscaping through to Anaheim Hills, but funds have not yet been appropriated. Current plans are to enhance the remainder of the trail with similar landscaping appropriate for the area.

Native landscaping by the Army Corps of Engineers in Orange County has been a great success.



The Golden Loop in Santa Ana

National Parks is working in conjunction with Trails-4-All to develop a trail along the Santiago Creek Corridor from Orange to the Santa Ana River Trail. The City of Santa Ana and the County of Orange have proposed a loop trail which would carry bicyclists south and west back to the Santa Ana River Trail.

Yorba Regional Park

A proposed soccer field in Yorba Regional Park would necessitate relocation of the existing entry and staging area in Yorba Regional Park. Relocation would require coordination with the proposed Fairmont Bridge extension.

Green River Golf Course

In Orange County a key component of the Santa Ana River Trail is the area between Gypsum Canyon and Prado Dam. The existing bike trail is sandwiched between the River and the Freeway and ends at Green River Road. There is no room for a riding/hiking trail adjacent to the bike trail and a multi-use trail in this area would be dangerous. The surrounding steep terrain confines the trail and bikeway to the flood plain of the river in this area. Studies are needed to develop a viable trail alignment through this area and this will require coordination with Orange County Flood Control District's plans to accommodate the increased flood capacity that will result from the COE Prado Dam raising project and with State Parks.



Finding a route through the Green River Golf Course is key to the success of the Trail

Segments to be Completed - Pacific Ocean to Prado Basin

Trail Tread

Golden Loop Trail in Santa Ana
Green River Golf Course trail/
bikeway

Staging

Staging in Southern Orange County
Yorba Regional Park staging
and entry

Trail Amenities

Complete Landscaping of Trail
Consistent Signage throughout Trail
Mile markers throughout Trail



Santa Ana River Trail

Future Segments - Prado Basin to 7-Oaks Dam

Prado Basin Loop Trail

The Army Corps' Prado Dam raising project is anticipated to begin in July, 2002. Coordinating efforts with the Corps will maximize the benefits to the public by combining resources. Three alternative ways to build and fund the Prado portions of the Trail include: 1. Pay the Corps to design and build the trail, 2. Individual Cities and Counties would design and build the trail after the Corps is finished with their work in Prado Basin, 3. A combination of both 1 and 2 as appropriate. Because the Corps has federal authorization to provide recreational facilities along the Santa Ana River, from Prado Basin to 7-Oaks Dam, securing state and local funding within the next year would provide a source of matching funds for obtaining federal dollars, and would provide funds for local sponsors to complete their planning work in time to coordinate their efforts with the Corps.



The Prado Basin loop trail provides an opportunity to showcase the unique habitats in Prado Basin

Hidden Valley Trail

The Hidden Valley portion of the Trail runs on the bluff above the Santa Ana River Trail, providing large vistas of the river bottom and the City of Riverside's nitrate removal ponds. To allow bicycle travel through this segment of the Trail paving the existing trail to create a Multi-use trail or building a separate bicycle trail will be needed. There is a small amount of land that will need to be acquired in this area.

Riverwash Loop

In addition to the County line to Alabama segment of trail that has been funded through the efforts of the San Bernardino Parks staff, the addition of a trail on the opposite bank of the river would create a loop trail. The 15 mile loop would provide a pleasurable day's ride around the unusual boulder fields and habitat of the Santa Ana River in this region.



A loop trail from Tippecanoe Ave to 7-Oaks Dam will showcase the unique riverwash habitat where the river leaves the mountains

Segments to be Completed - Prado Basin to 7-Oaks Dam

Trail Tread

- Prado Basin loop trail
- Bicycle linkage to Chino Hills State Park
- Linkages to Cities of Chino and Chino Hills trail systems
- Trail and bikeway through Corona
- Trail and bikeway through Norco
- La Sierra/Norco Hills trail and bikeway
- Riverwash Loop Trail

Linkages to State Parks

- Trail linkage to Coal Canyon
- Multi-use linkage to newly forming San Timoteo Canyon State Park

Staging

- Staging near Prado Basin
- Staging along Riverwash Loop

Trail Amenities

- Complete Landscaping of Trail
- Consistent Signage throughout Trail
- Mile markers throughout Trail

Parks

- Jurupa Valley River Regional Park, staging and equestrian unit
- Naturalistic Parks adjacent to the Riverwash Loop