



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), Director

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Agenda Item
XIII
WCCA

July 31, 2013

Russell Williams
Environmental Division Manger
County of Riverside Transportation Department
4080 Lemon Street, 8th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-1090

Subject: Santa Ana River Trail Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Williams:

As we stated in our multi-agency meeting on May 28, 2013, this project should not move forward without proper coordination with our agency. Until now, that has not occurred. We received the Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the County of Riverside's Santa Ana River Trail project on July 17, 2013. We inquired about the project's environmental review in a meeting on May 28, 2013 and were told that it was forthcoming. The County of Riverside's NOE appears to have been filed on May 1, 2013. Despite repeated attempts to remain engaged in this project's process through both the Parks and Transportation Departments of the County of Riverside, it appears our agency was omitted.

There are a significant number of concerns State Parks has with many aspects of the project. For example, State Parks has yet to approve the design of the trail and review any ongoing maintenance plans. Based on what we understand of the project scope, this project does not qualify for a Categorical Exemption. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide substantive comments because of the limited amount of information that is available to us. We expect to provide comments in the future when adequate information is available. In order for the necessary permits and easements to be granted to the County of Riverside for the Santa Ana River Trail project, the preparation of an Initial Study and adequate circulation of the study for public review must be completed.

For further discussion, please contact me or Enrique Arroyo at (951) 453-6848.

Sincerely,

Kelly Elliott
Chino Sector Superintendent
Inland Empire District