



# AGENDA

## Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

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### **Committee Members**

*Lisa Bartlett, Chair  
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair  
Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury  
Association of OC  
Laurie Davies, OCTA Board of Directors  
Eugene Fields, Taxpayers Oversight  
Committee Representative  
Chris Flynn, Caltrans District 12  
Veronica Li, US Army Corps of Engineers  
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering  
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League  
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife  
Service  
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conservation  
Board*

*Orange County Transportation Authority  
Conference Room 07  
550 South Main Street  
Orange, CA*

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.**

Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should contact the OCTA Clerk of the Board, telephone (714) 560-5676, no less than two (2) business days prior to this meeting to enable OCTA to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approval of November 7, 2018 Minutes**
- 4. North Coal Canyon and Chino Hills State Park Restoration Project Update**  
Lesley Hill, OCTA

*The North Coal Canyon and Chino Hills State Park (CHSP) restoration projects were approved by the EOC and OCTA Board as part of the EMP's second round of restoration funding in 2012 and were incorporated into the OCTA Conservation Plan. Due to limitations on the California Department of Parks and Recreation contracting process, CHSP was unable to implement these two restoration projects. Staff, at the direction of the EOC, is utilizing the Board-approved procurement procedures to identify qualified entity(ies) to implement these projects. These restoration projects are in the process of being awarded to two separate contractors. A brief status update on this process will be provided by staff. Additional information pertaining to this item is attached.*

- 5. Fire Management Plans**  
Lesley Hill, OCTA  
Carol Rice, Wildland Res Mgmt
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# AGENDA

## Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

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*In consultation with the local fire authority, staff is preparing fire management plans (FMPs) for the seven Preserves. The Plans will establish policies and approaches to maximize protection of biological resources during fire suppression activities, to the degree feasible. The consultant preparing these Plans will share an overview of the components including the mission, methodology, process and anticipated products with the EOC. These Plans are a requirement of the Conservation Plan and will require approval by the Wildlife Agencies. Additional information pertaining to this item is attached. The FMPs are anticipated to be completed in 2020.*

### **6. 2019 Hikes and Rides Schedule**

Marissa Espino, OCTA

*The hikes and rides schedule for 2019 has been developed. The schedule and upcoming dates are attached and will be shared with the EOC. The annual family event at the Trabuco Rose Preserve is scheduled for Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> this year.*

### **7. Public Comments**

*Members of the public may address the EOC regarding any item. Please complete a speaker's card and submit it to the EOC or notify the EOC the item number on which you wish to speak. Speakers will be recognized by the Chair at the time the agenda item is to be considered. A speaker's comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes.*

### **8. Committee Member Reports**

### **9. Next Meeting – May 1, 2019**

### **10. Adjournment**

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## ***Minutes***

### **Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee**

#### **Committee Members**

Lori Donchak, Chairman  
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair  
Lisa Bartlett, Board of Directors  
Eugene Fields, Taxpayers Oversight Comm.  
Chris Flynn, Caltrans District 12  
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering  
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife

Orange County Transportation Authority  
550 South Main Street, Room 07  
Orange, California  
**Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at  
2:30pm**

#### **Member(s) Absent**

Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury Assoc. of O.C.  
Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers  
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League  
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conserv. Board

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#### **1. Welcome**

Chairman Lori Donchak called the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. Chair Donchak asked new member Eugene Fields of the Taxpayers Oversight Committee to introduce himself.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Lori Donchak led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **3. Approval of June 6, 2018 Minutes**

Chairman Lori Donchak asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 6, 2018 EOC minutes. A motion was made by Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Lisa Bartlett and passed unanimously to approve the June 6, 2018 EOC meeting minutes as presented.

#### **4. Environmental Mitigation Program Endowment Fund Investment Report**

Dan Phu presented the Environmental Mitigation Program Endowment Fund Investment Report. He said OCTA has deposited its third deposit on a 10 to 12-year endowment. Dan provided further background on the set-up of the endowment.

The committee discussed the future revenue of Measure M2 sales tax collection and how much wiggle room there is in the future for projects. Dan Phu said sales tax collection is near target, but there is not a lot of wiggle room in the budget for environmental mitigation. The committee also asked OCTA if it could deposit a larger amount into the endowment if there is extra money at any point.

The committee discussed the variables of the endowment. Dan Phu said the principal on the endowment is \$34.5M and that \$46.2M is the projected principal, plus interest earnings over a 12-year period.

#### **5. Trabuco Rose Property Encroachment**

Dan Phu provided an overview of the Trabuco Rose Property and the small area of encroachment by the Hamilton Trails Community. The site has been surveyed and there is no high value habitat at this location. David Mayer said the wildlife agencies have reviewed the area and while this sale is out of the norm, under the circumstances, it is the most expedient way to address the issue. He said OCTA will not be short of the requirements for NCCP/HCP. Jonathan Snyder said the wildlife agencies made sure this was all the land required and was ensured the funds will go back into the Environmental Mitigation Program. Staff also met with the Orange County Fire Authority to ensure this is the only area of encroachment. David said one of the reasons we have flexibility on this parcel is because the conservation easement is not in place yet.

Dan Phu said the appraisal has already been done on the valuation. Next, an appraisal review will take place to ensure the appraisal is done in accordance with state law, and then the sale will go to the OCTA Board for approval. He said OCTA staff expects this whole process to take about two months (holidays could push it out).

The committee discussed different alternatives regarding the property, but ultimately staff is recommending the sale of this specific piece of property. There was also discussion about the age of the structure being fairly new and the other ancillary structure being a pump house with a deck around it.

The owner was present and made a brief statement saying OCTA has been very easy to work with, but he recently discovered the encroachment while having his defensible space reviewed.

A motion was made by Lisa Bartlett, seconded by Derek McGregor and passed unanimously to endorse staff's recommendation to sell 0.36 acre of the Preserve to the adjacent property owner, subject to a fair market appraisal.

**6. Eagle Ridge and Pacific Horizon Preserve Resource Management Plans (RMPs)**

Lesley Hill provided an overview of the RMPs for the Eagle Ridge and Pacific Horizon Preserves. She said there are 13 covered species within all of the OCTA properties which covers the 13 freeway projects for mitigation. The RMPs are "living" documents and OCTA has committed to opening them up every five years for review. She said ultimately the Wildlife Agencies have final approval of the RMPs.

Lesley Hill summarized the edits to these documents which were finalized in September after the public comment period. She said edits to the Eagle Ridge RMP include: name change, updated figures, public access information, updates to the protected lands and response to comments. She said edits to the Pacific Horizon RMP include: name change, incorporation of information on the coastal zone, updated figures, description of trails, clarification on public access, added information on archeologic monitoring and response to comments.

Lesley Hill said the next step is long-term management and monitoring which includes invasive species mapping and removal.

The committee requested staff reports related to items 6-11. The committee also discussed the archeological monitoring.

Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck thanked the project team; she said she really appreciates the team using her as a resource. Melanie said the five-year cycles come at different time periods and it would be great to have them all on the same cycle.

The committee discussed who does the invasive species removal. Lesley Hill said it is contracted out by OCTA.

Marissa Espino said the Sierra Club sent a letter regarding the RMPs and it was sent out to committee members today.

**7. North Coal Canyon and Chino Hills State Park Restoration Projects Update**

Lesley Hill said OCTA went out to bid again for this project. She said hopefully there will be an executed contract in early 2019.

The committee asked if the funds for this project are going to suffice. Lesley Hill said we have not received any proposals at this time, so there is no way of knowing yet.

**8. City Parcel Restoration Project Completion**

Lesley Hill provided an overview of the 53-acre Trabuco Creek Ranch restoration project in San Juan Capistrano which was recently completed. Habitat types include:

coastal sage scrub, riparian and transitional plant communities. She said the project will repair a habitat gap which will help link gnatcatchers and improve a wildlife corridor, etc. She said conditions were tough during this period, but the contractor was able to stay on budget. Lesley said 30+ disadvantaged San Juan Capistrano youth were employed on this project, 25,000 lbs. of illegally dumped concrete and trash was removed, 15,000 lbs. of additional debris was removed, 200,000+ invasive weeds were removed and 60,000+ native trees/plants were planted.

Derek Ostensen (restoration project manager) said thank you to OCTA and the EOC for their dedication to this program. He said he is very impressed with how OCTA has handled things in a financially transparent, very ethical and organized way with great collaboration with the agencies involved in getting this work done. He said what has been achieved has been phenomenal. Derek said OCTA was able to fulfill some long-held conservation priorities. He also thanked the agencies involved with this committee for their work on the projects.

Chair Lori Donchak suggested taking this presentation to the City of San Juan Capistrano City Council.

#### **9. Irvine Ranch Conservancy Restoration Project (West Loma) 2018 Fire Damage**

Lesley Hill provided a brief overview of the impacts of the Santiago wildfire on the West Loma restoration project. She said due to the wildfire Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) needed to install dozer and hand lines to prevent the further spread of the wildfire. Lesley said some damage was a result of the fire and some was due to the dozer and hand lines. Some plants and plant protectors were impacted resulting in \$12,500 worth of damage. She said most of the cost was a result of the actual fire. Lesley said OCTA has not met the success criteria on this project yet and has not received sign-off. An amendment was done to this project to cover the cost.

Monte Ward said OCTA has learned from this crisis and is working with the OCFA to show where preserves and restoration projects are on maps, so that maybe dozer/hand lines can work around valued habitat when possible.

The committee discussed the cause of the fire being a roadside vehicle on the 241 Toll Road. The committee discussed emergency money being set-up in the endowment fund, but not on the unfinished restoration projects.

#### **10. Fire Management Plans**

Lesley Hill provided an update on fire plans for the Conservation Plan. She said in July OCTA hired a consultant to develop the plans for each preserve. The OCFA, as well as local fire agencies, will be working with OCTA in development of the plan. Lesley said the fire plan will look at fire prevention and recommendations, public safety, what happens when fire breaks out/modeling, recommendation for access and post fire needs. She said open communication with the agencies involved will be the key to the success of the plan.

The committee discussed the possibility of the fire plans being successful. Lesley Hill said OCTA staff is in communication now with the OCFA. Monte Ward said this helps OCTA in being a good neighbor because property owners are worried about fire hazards on their properties. The committee also discussed how OCFA has jurisdiction over CalFire in these situations.

The committee talked about how the fire plans will be available to adjacent communities and agencies once finished. Co-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck said Chino Valley Independent Fire Agency and Carbon Canyon Fire Council may be adjacent to properties as well. Lisa Bartlett said OCFA has Mutual Aid Agreements in place with smaller agencies.

#### **11. Hike and Ride Events**

Marissa Espino said the next hike and ride event will be on November 17 and 18. She said a 2019 calendar will be coming out soon.

#### **12. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

#### **13. Committee Member Reports**

Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck said in 2008 the now Eagle Ridge Preserve was impacted by the Freeway Complex Fire. She said Hills for Everyone is hosting a commemoration event on November 17 and 18.

Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck and Lisa Bartlett announced this as Chair Lori Donchak's last meeting. Melanie listed all of the EOC accomplishments during Chair Donchak's tenure. She thanked the Chair and said she is a great person, teacher and policy maker. Lisa Bartlett thanked the Chair for being an OCTA Director and EOC Member. She said the Chair has taken every decision to heart when providing guidance. Lisa thanked her for her commitment to OCTA.

Chair Lori Donchak said it has been an amazing six years working on this unique program with the collaboration of the wonderful staff. She said she truly enjoyed working with this group. She thanked Monte Ward, Kia Mortazavi and Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck for making things happen.

#### **14. Next Meeting – February 6, 2018**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2018.

#### **15. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



***February 6, 2019***

**To:** Environmental Oversight Committee

**From:** Orange County Transportation Authority Staff

**Subject:** February Environmental Oversight Committee Information Items  
(Item 4 - 5)

***Item 4 – North Coal Canyon and Chino Hills State Park Restoration Project Update***

The North Coal Canyon and Chino Hills State Park (CHSP) restoration projects were approved by the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) and OCTA Board as part of the Environmental Mitigation Program's (EMP's) second round of restoration funding in 2012 and were incorporated into the OCTA Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan Conservation Plan (Conservation Plan). Two agreements were subsequently executed with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (i.e., CHSP). Attachment A contains a graphic of the acquired conservation properties and funded restoration projects. Attachment B includes the M2 EMP-funded restoration projects summary.

Due to limitations on the California Department of Parks and Recreation contracting process, CHSP was unable to implement these two restoration projects. The two agreements with CHSP were dissolved in 2018. Staff at the direction of the EOC, utilized the Board-approved procurement procedures to identify qualified entity(ies) to implement these projects. These restoration projects were recently awarded to two separate restoration contractors to implement the "on the ground" restoration work.

The North Coal Canyon restoration project consists of approximately 5.5-acres of coastal sage scrub restoration in the amount of \$247,500. This project area lies just north of State Route 91 (SR-91) and the Coal Canyon undercrossing. The project area is within the Chino Hills State Park adjacent to the Santa Ana River. It serves as a vital link between the surrounding Puente-Chino Hills to the north and the Cleveland National Forest and the Santa Ana Mountains on the south. The project is expected to improve wildlife movement by making habitat north of SR-91 more attractive to wildlife and will complete the restoration of the entire Coal Canyon parcel by connecting three other



restoration projects being funded by other entities. This bio-corridor is the only remaining link that allows dispersal of wildlife between CHSP and the more diverse Santa Ana Mountains. Coal Canyon provides habitat for the movement of OCTA Conservation Plan Covered Species, such as mountain lion and bobcat, and provides high quality habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher as well as foraging habitat for the least Bell's vireo.

The Chino Hills State Park restoration project consists of 11-acres of coastal sage scrub (cactus scrub) restoration in the amount of \$193,000. This project area occurs on the slope overlooking Yorba Linda south of the junction of Southridge Trail and Diemer Trail. This project will help return this area to its previous condition and benefit OCTA Conservation Plan Covered Species including the coastal California gnatcatcher and cactus wren.

OCTA will have contracts executed in February 2019 for these important restoration projects. The implementation of the North Coal Canyon restoration project (\$247,500) is being awarded to RECON Environmental, Inc. The implementation of the Chino Hills State Park restoration project (\$193,000) is being awarded to Habitat Restoration Sciences Inc. A brief status update on this process for these projects will be provided by staff.

#### ***Item 5 – OCTA Preserves Fire Management Plans***

In consultation with the local fire authority, staff is preparing fire management plans (FMPs) for the seven OCTA owned Preserves. The goal of this effort will be to develop FMPs that are easily implementable and establish a framework for long-term benefits and protection. The FMPs will address all stages of fire management: prevention, vegetation management, suppression, and post-fire responses. These will help OCTA make decisions regarding fire management that also reflect conservation and stewardship responsibilities pursuant to the OCTA Conservation Plan.

Because of the high ecological values at risk and their vulnerability to fire, it is important for the FMPs to be supported by evidence-based data and promote best management practices regarding ecosystem resiliency, ignition prevention, and urban interface protection. The process will analyze potential fire behavior by determining the fuel characteristics of the current vegetation, by identifying appropriate weather scenarios for simulations. This method will highlight areas of hazards and vulnerabilities.

The FMPs will also map adjacent structures or infrastructure at risk that might require management as well as ignition risks to identify needs for action or protection. The FMPs' findings will be presented to stakeholders such as the EOC and local fire departments. Outcomes will be communicated with local homeowner associations and visitors to the M2 Preserves. The consultant will

document the conditions, concerns and strategies for each of the seven OCTA Preserves via a set of documents that fulfills the goal of the contract.

The consultant is in the process of determining the appropriate fuel characteristics of the vegetation types in and adjacent to the Preserves. Values at risk are being identified, and an outreach and communications plan is being drafted. The consultant will present a summary of the project goals, methods and products to the EOC during the February meeting.

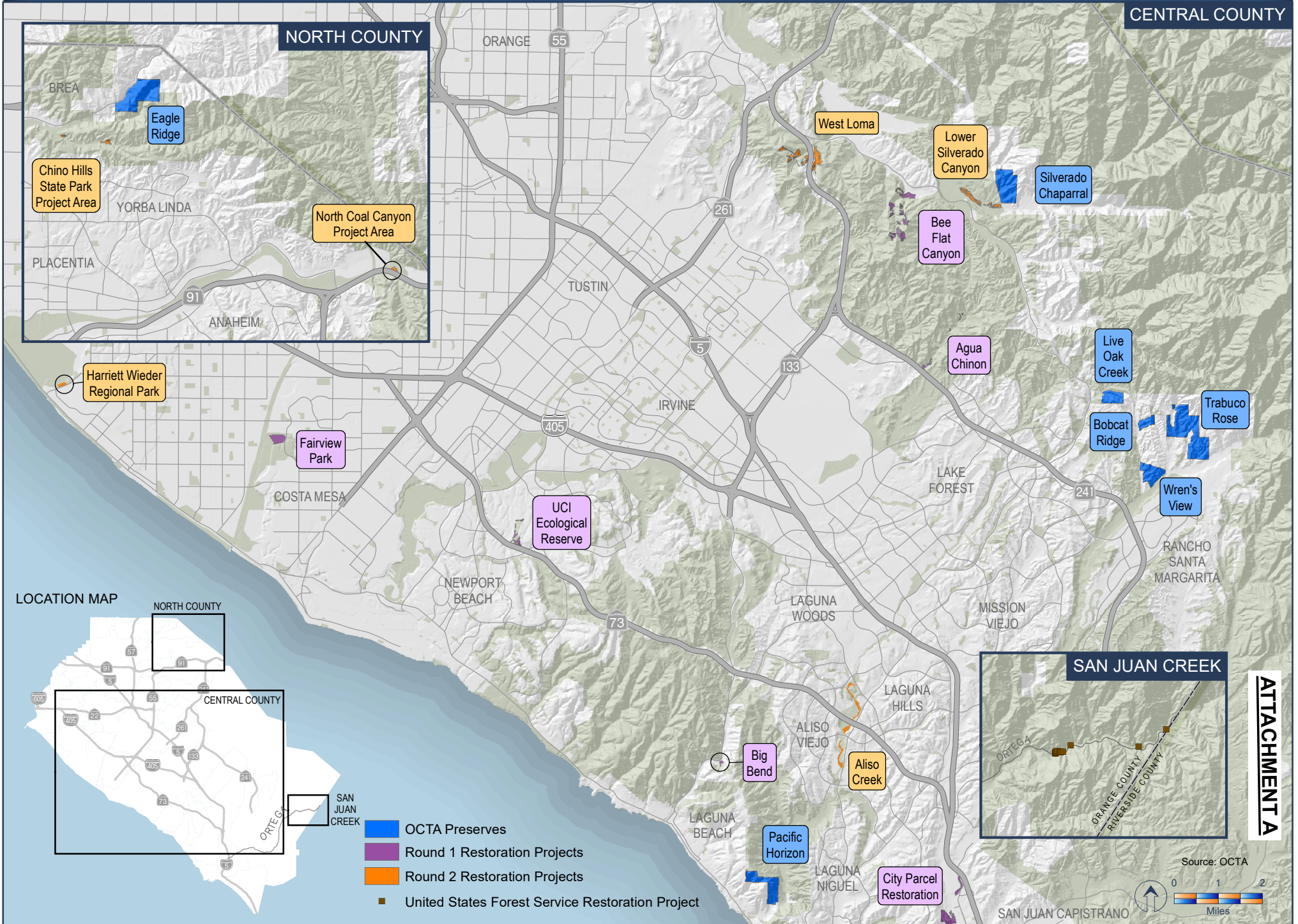
Attachments:

- A. OCTA Preserves and Funded Restoration Projects
- B. OCTA M2 EMP Funded Restoration Projects Summary

# OCTA Preserves and Funded Restoration Projects



CENTRAL COUNTY



ATTACHMENT A

## OCTA M2 EMP Funded Restoration Projects Summary

	Restoration Project	Sponsor	Proposed Cost	Approx. Acreage*	Geographic Area	General Habitat Types
2010 - Round One	City Parcel	City of San Juan Capistrano	\$1,500,000	53	San Juan Capistrano	riparian corridor, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland and native grassland
	Fairview Park	City of Costa Mesa	\$2,000,000	23	Costa Mesa	wetlands, native grassland, coastal sage scrub, willow scrub and oak woodland
	Irvine Ranch (Agua Chinon and Bee Flat Canyon)	Irvine Ranch Conservancy	\$1,450,00 (\$1,457,160)**	94.9 (90.1)**	Irvine	chaparral, coastal sage scrub, coast live oak/sycamore, oak woodland, native grassland and riparian
	UCI Ecological Reserve	Nature Reserve of OC	\$325,000	8.5	Irvine	cactus scrub
	Big Bend	Laguna Canyon Foundation	\$87,500	3.7	Laguna Beach	Coastal sage scrub and riparian woodland
2012 - Round Two	Aliso Creek	Laguna Canyon Foundation	\$1,105,000	55	Laguna Niguel	riparian
	Chino Hills State Park	Chino Hills State Park	\$193,000	11	Yorba Linda	willow riparian, oak-walnut woodland and cactus scrub
	Harriett Weider Regional Park	Bolsa Chica Conservancy	\$475,000	8.2	Huntington Beach	native grassland, coastal sage scrub and riparian
	Lower Silverado Canyon	Irvine Ranch Conservancy	\$1,399,580 (\$1,414,435)**	44 (28.4)**	County of Orange	riparian
	North Coal Canyon	California Department of Parks and Recreation	\$247,500	5.5	Yorba Linda	coastal sage scrub
	West Loma	Irvine Ranch Conservancy	\$1,296,000 (\$1,322,800)**	80 (62.47)**	County of Orange	scrub, riparian
2016	United States Forest Service Dam Removal	United States Forest Service	\$185,000	14 dams removed	San Juan Capistrano	creek bed and riparian

Note: shaded projects were funded as part of Round 1 and the unshaded projects were part of Round 2.

\*Proposed acreage is subject to change and may be adjusted slightly once the restoration work is completed.

\*\*Amounts depicted in the table were revised/amended and approved by the OCTA Board of Directors in June 2016.





# 2019 WILDERNESS PRESERVE HIKING AND EQUESTRIAN RIDING TOURS CALENDAR\*

Hosted by Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), these excursions will take place on various open space preserves that are permanently protected. This is your opportunity to have special access to some of Orange County's pristine open space and enjoy the natural landscape.

FEBRUARY	<b>Saturday 2/16</b>	Hike @ Wren's View Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	9:00-10:00
	<b>Saturday 2/23</b>	Ride @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	10:00-11:00
APRIL	<b>Saturday 4/6</b>	Family Hike @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	10:00-12:00
	<b>Sunday 4/28</b>	Ride @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	9:00-10:00
JUNE	<b>Saturday 6/8</b>	Hike @ Wren's View Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	8:30-9:30
	<b>Sunday 6/30</b>	Ride @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	9:00-10:00
JULY	<b>Sunday 7/14</b>	Ride @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	8:30-9:30
AUGUST	<b>Saturday 8/17</b>	Hike @ Pacific Horizon Preserve, Laguna Beach	8:30-10:30
	<b>Saturday 8/24</b>	Ride @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	8:30-9:30
OCTOBER	<b>Saturday 10/5</b>	Hike @ Wren's View Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	9:00-10:00
NOVEMBER	<b>Saturday 11/2</b>	Hike @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	9:00-10:00
	<b>Saturday 11/16</b>	Ride @ Trabuco Rose Preserve, Trabuco Canyon	10:00-11:00

Participants must be 12 years and over, except for the 4/6 family hike. All hikers must sign a liability waiver and minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All riders must provide their own horse. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please visit [www.preservingourlegacy.org](http://www.preservingourlegacy.org) to learn more details about the individual hikes and equestrian rides or contact Marissa Espino at [mespino@octa.net](mailto:mespino@octa.net) or **714.560.5607**.

\* Dates are subject to change



ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY