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Memorandum of Understanding

Coordinated Parkway Planning

Among Counties along the

Santa Ana River Corridor

THIS AGREEMENT, hereby dated the 14th day of February, 2006,

BY AND BETWEEN

The County of Orange, a subdivision of the State of California, hereinafter referred to as "ORANGE";

AND

The County of Riverside, a subdivision of the State of California, hereinafter referred to as "RIVERSIDE";

AND

The County of San Bernardino, a subdivision of the State of California, hereinafter referred to as "SAN BERNARDINO";

AND

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, a recognized regional agency that has significant responsibility for the management of the Santa Ana River throughout the watershed, hereinafter referred to as "SAWPA";

AND

The Wildlands Conservancy, a private non-profit group that has been instrumental in the development of the Parkway to date and is uniquely positioned and capable of fostering good stewardship throughout the basin, hereinafter referred to as "WILDLANDS";

is to establish a mechanism to facilitate planning, project implementation, and reporting and accountability for the parties as they endeavor to create a recreational parkway along the Santa Ana River.

RECITALS

1
2 **WHEREAS**, certain lands within the counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino form an expansive
3 watershed which leads from the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean along a river course known as the
4 Santa Ana River, and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Ana River is a 110 mile-long river that serves the diverse needs of the three counties
6 and adjacent cities including flood control, water conservation, habitat protection, education and recreation; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the parties have identified the common desire to create a 100-mile long recreational parkway
8 adjacent to the Santa Ana River; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, along with several cities, have separately
10 adopted recreational plans, that include trails, and

11 **WHEREAS**, these regional and local plans identify the Santa Ana River as an important recreational corridor,
12 and the parties have identified the need to coordinate these activities along the river to ensure consistency, facilitate
13 planning, and share resources; and

14 **WHEREAS**, a recreational parkway along the Santa Ana River would provide a trail system that is accessible
15 to more than 7 million people living within a 2-hour drive, and that the river trail consists of a Class I (paved off-road)
16 bikeway and a separate riding and hiking trail designed to serve the needs of equestrians, joggers, and bicyclists;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, on March 12, 1976, then Secretary of Interior Thomas Kleppe deemed portions of the trail in
19 Orange County and San Bernardino County as the Santa Ana River National Recreational Trail #80 and #100,
20 respectively, establishing for the first time, a national trail along the Santa Ana River;, and

21 **WHEREAS**, the parties recognize that visitors to the Santa Ana River would derive a substantial additional
22 benefit if the separate lengths of the Santa Ana River Trail were connected together, thus allowing public access to
23 the entirety of local and regional recreational facilities along the river; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the parties recognize the substantial public interest and benefit for a continuous recreational trail
25 from the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.
26

1 **NOW THEREFORE, THE PARTIES to this Agreement hereby agree as follows:**

2 1. The PARTIES will establish an advisory committee comprised of eight (8) voting members:
3 one elected Supervisor from each of the three counties, three elected city representatives (one
4 from each county to be appointed by the Supervisor of that county), one representative from
5 SAWPA, and one representative from WILDLANDS for a total of eight (8) members. The
6 committee will be referred to as the Policy Advisory Group (PAG). The PARTIES also agree
7 that:

- 8 a. The role of the PAG will be to monitor progress of the Santa Ana River Parkway,
9 discuss issues related to that progress, and coordinate decision making across
10 jurisdictional boundaries to ensure expeditious completion of the Parkway. Decisions
11 will be made by simple majority and will be limited to the existing authority of PAG
12 members. Creation of this PAG confers no new authority on its members. Only elected
13 officials will be able to vote on matters related to the use of public funds, and SAWPA
14 and WILDLANDS shall abstain from voting on matters related to the use of such public
15 funds in connection with this Agreement.
- 16 b. The PAG will consider recommendations made by a technical advisory group
17 (described below) in its decision making.
- 18 c. The PAG will schedule bi-monthly meetings at a mutually agreed upon date, time and
19 location to be determined by availability of PAG members.
- 20 d. PAG meetings will be convened by a chair, elected by majority of the PAG members,
21 who will hold the position for one year. After one year, the chair will rotate to another
22 PAG member as nominated and agreed upon by a majority of the PAG members.
23 Alternatively, the chair may serve successive years and need not be rotated if agreed
24 upon by a majority of the PAG members. The PAG members may also agree to elect,
25 by a majority vote, a vice-chair to act on the chair's behalf in case of the chair's
26 absence.