



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project
San Bernardino County, California**

Project Location and Description

The Cities of Loma Linda and Redlands have requested \$4,500,240.00 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat along a portion of San Timoteo Creek. The project covers approximately 6.58 linear miles of San Timoteo Creek, from the confluence of the Santa Ana River to the Riverside County line. The funds will be used for property acquisition and development and implementation of an enhancement plan. The EPA is considering fulfilling this funding request.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to preserve existing habitat as open space in a land conservancy and to enhance more urbanized areas primarily by establishing native vegetation characteristic of the San Timoteo Creek area. Urbanization and stream channelization for flood control in the City of Loma Linda have resulted in the substantial loss of wildlife habitat in the lower reach of San Timoteo Creek. These activities are needed because San Timoteo Creek provides one of the only remaining linkages that present the opportunity to enhance wildlife corridors between the Santa Ana River and Prado Basins on the west and the San Bernardino, San Gorgonio, and San Jacinto Mountains to the east. This project will also compliment other ongoing conservation efforts upstream on the San Timoteo Creek.

Environmental Consequences

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Detailed analyses of the project are contained in the EA. The EPA has determined that the action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the environment. Consequently, EPA has made the decision to prepare this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and to not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Public Review

A public review copy of the EA is available at the U.S. EPA, Region 9, website at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/nepa/epa-generated.html>.

Copies of the EA are available for viewing at:

Loma Linda Branch Library
25581 Barton Road
Loma Linda, CA 92354
(909) 796-8621

Hours: 12-8 on Mon., Tues.
10-8 on Weds., Thurs.
10-6 on Fri.
Closed on Sat.
1-5 on Sun.

A.K. Smiley Library
125 W. Vine Street
Redlands, CA 92373
(909) 798-7565

Hours: 9-9 on Mon., Tues.
9-7 on Weds., Thurs.
9-5 on Fri., Sat.
1-5 on Sun.

The comment period runs from March 15 to April 13, 2007. Comments, via letter or fax may be sent to:

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Email: butterwick.mary@epa.gov

The EPA will review, consider and respond to all comments received for the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project. The EPA will not take any administrative action on the EPA-funded project described above prior to the expiration of this comment period, and EPA's review and response to any comments received.

This FONSI is final upon signature by the U.S. EPA, Region 9, Regional Administrator. If signed, it will not be re-circulated for review, but will be available to any individual upon request.

Wayne Nastri
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 9

Date