

**Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission
Package**

Proposal Name: Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration Study

Submission Date: 08/27/2019

Proposal ID Number: 2266135f-1e81-40b7-9015-a20ce20df17b

Purpose of Proposal: The partners in the study, the Corps and the OCWD, have authorities for management of the Santa Ana River to address a variety of public objectives for water resource management. The Prado Dam and Reservoir is operated by the Corps to provide flood risk management for developed areas of Orange County. The purpose of the feasibility study is to address the adaptation and supplementation of the operation of the Prado Dam and Reservoir with additional measures to address ecosystem restoration, which is described below. The ecosystem restoration measures were developed and evaluated to restore the quality and function of aquatic, riparian, and transitional habitats within the study area, and to address obstacles to regional wildlife movement for both terrestrial and aquatic species. Native species that would benefit from this restoration include the Federally-listed threatened or endangered Santa Ana sucker, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo and coastal California gnatcatcher, as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration Study

by Agency: Orange County Water District

Locations: CA

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/27/2019

Confirmation Number: 2266135f-1e81-40b7-9015-a20ce20df17b

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
OCWD Letter of Support 8.21.19.pdf	08/27/2019
Regional Location Exhibit.pdf	08/27/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Orange County Water District (Primary)	<p>The Orange County Water District (OCWD) appreciates our long and fruitful collaboration with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This relationship has provided notable successes in managing water resources in the Santa Ana River Watershed. Our joint efforts to manage natural resources in Prado Basin have provided remarkable environmental benefits, including recovery of the endangered Least Bell’s vireo. USACE and OCWD have recently advanced our joint efforts through the Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (‘Study’). OCWD is submitting the ecosystem restoration measures in the Study as a proposal to Congress under the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 Section 7001. The ecosystem restoration measures in the Study will enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species in Prado Basin, the largest riparian woodland in coastal southern California. Restoration of natural resources in Prado Basin provides regional, statewide and national benefits due to the importance of Prado Basin as a home for threatened and endangered species and its location on the Pacific Flyway. We look forward to collaborating with the USACE as we strive to enhance the environment and provide value to the nation.</p>

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to a USACE Project Authority : Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, California

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The partners in the study, the Corps and the OCWD, have authorities for management of the Santa Ana River to address a variety of public objectives for water resource management. The Prado Dam and Reservoir is operated by the Corps to provide flood risk management for developed areas of Orange County. The purpose of the feasibility study is to address the adaption and supplementation of the operation of the Prado Dam and Reservoir with additional measures to address ecosystem restoration, which is described below. The ecosystem restoration measures were developed and evaluated to restore the quality and function of aquatic, riparian, and transitional habitats within the study area, and to address obstacles to regional wildlife movement for both terrestrial and aquatic species. Native species that would benefit from this restoration include the Federally-listed threatened or endangered Santa Ana sucker, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo and coastal California gnatcatcher, as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$467,051	\$4,392,949	\$4,860,000
Construction	\$23,950,000	\$15,759,000	\$39,709,000

Explanation (if necessary)

Cost estimate for recommended plan from project feasibility study.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The study's habitat restoration measure is primarily comprised of ecosystem restoration features within and along the Santa Ana River and Chino and Mill Creeks that would enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species in Prado Basin, the largest riparian woodland in coastal southern California. The ecosystem restoration measures in the Study Restoration of natural resources in Prado Basin provides regional, statewide and national benefits due to the importance of Prado Basin as a home for threatened and endangered species and its location on the Pacific Flyway. The restoration measure has been quantified through the application of CHAP modeling, which indicates that it would provide a net benefit of 38,795 Average Annual Habitation Units (AAHUs). Moreover, the habitat restoration measure would provide an overall positive recreational benefit for those visiting the area associated with the enhanced environmental setting.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

As local sponsor, the Orange County Water District (OCWD) has recently advanced our joint efforts with the Corps through the Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study ('Study'). The relationship between OCWD and the Corps has provided notable successes in managing water and natural resources in the Santa Ana River Watershed. The joint efforts between OCWD and the Corps to manage natural resources in Prado Basin have provided remarkable environmental benefits, including recovery of the endangered Least Bell's vireo. OCWD has conveyed their full support for the proposal in furtherance of the long and fruitful relationship between the two agencies in managing the natural resources within Prado Basin.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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OCWD Letter of Support 8.21.19.pdf

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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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August 21, 2019

Colonel Aaron C. Barta
Commander and District Engineer
United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017

SUBJECT: Proposal submitted under WRRDA Section 7001, Prado Basin

Dear Colonel Barta:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) appreciates our long and fruitful collaboration with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This relationship has provided notable successes in managing water resources in the Santa Ana River Watershed. Our joint efforts to manage natural resources in Prado Basin have provided remarkable environmental benefits, including recovery of the endangered Least Bell's vireo.

USACE and OCWD have recently advanced our joint efforts through the Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study ('Study'). OCWD is submitting the ecosystem restoration measures in the Study as a proposal to Congress under the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 Section 7001.

The ecosystem restoration measures in the Study will enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species in Prado Basin, the largest riparian woodland in coastal southern California. Restoration of natural resources in Prado Basin provides regional, statewide and national benefits due to the importance of Prado Basin as a home for threatened and endangered species and its location on the Pacific Flyway.

We look forward to collaborating with you as we strive to enhance the environment and provide value to the nation.

Colonel Aaron C. Barta
August 21, 2019
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Please contact Mr. Greg Woodside of OCWD at (714) 378-3275 or
gwoodside@ocwd.com with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vicente Sarmiento', written in a cursive style.

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
President

Map Document

(This is as uploaded, a blank page will show if nothing was submitted)

Regional Location Exhibit.pdf

