



# Notice of Preparation Santa Clara River Levee Improvements Upstream of Highway 101 (SCR-1) Project Environmental Impact Report

**June 28, 2021**

The Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection (Watershed Protection or VCPWA – WP) is soliciting input from interested persons and agencies regarding the scope and content of the Santa Clara River Levee Improvements Upstream of Highway 101 (SCR-1) Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), VCPWA – WP requests: 1) review of the project description provided in the detailed Notice of Preparation (NOP), and 2) comments on the proposed Project and environmental issues. The EIR analyses will inform the VCPWA – WP when considering approval of the SCR-1 Project (also referred to as proposed Project) and other Responsible and Trustee Agencies to support their discretionary actions related to the proposed Project.

The proposed Project involves structural improvements to the existing SCR-1 levee to correct deficiencies identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and achieve compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) levee certification requirements, thereby increasing the level of protection to residents and businesses in the City of Oxnard located within the one percent annual chance (also known as the 100-year) flood zone. The proposed Project will be designed to accommodate a future bikeway, and, if stakeholder funding and regulatory approvals permit, incorporate public education features. The proposed Project objectives include constructing new, upgrading existing, and maintaining levee structures to provide continuous flood protection; achieving compliance with FEMA certification requirements; accommodating a future bikeway consistent with the City of Oxnard Santa Clara River Trail Master Plan; and incorporating watershed health public education features. Based on initial biological and cultural surveys and a preliminary evaluation of potential impacts, VCPWA – WP has determined that preparation of an EIR is warranted to evaluate the proposed Project. The EIR will provide a complete, objective analysis of the proposed Project design for the SCR-1 Project.

VCPWA – WP invites you and other interested persons and organizations to submit comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Please focus your scoping comments on the issues to be considered, including environmental concerns, feasible ways in which impacts may be minimized (mitigation measures), and potential alternatives to the proposed Project.

Scoping comments can be submitted in one of the following ways:

| <b>Submittal by Mail</b>   | <b>Submittal by E-mail</b>  |
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| Ventura County Public Works Agency - Watershed Protection<br>Attn: SCR-1 Project<br>800 S. Victoria Ave., #1600<br>Ventura, CA 93009 | <b>SCR1info@ventura.org</b><br><i>Please remember to include your name and return address in the email message.</i> |

**Comments must be postmarked by July 27, 2021.**

For current project information, please refer to the SCR-1 Project website page (<https://www.vcpublicworks.org/wp/santa-clara-river/santaclarariverlevee/>). The project description, location, and potential environmental effects are outlined in a detailed Notice of Preparation available on the Project website page. If you do not have internet access or for general questions regarding the SCR-1 Project, please contact Angela Bonfiglio Allen at (805) 477-7175.