Southwest Riverside County, California

MURRIETA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND RECREATION PROJECT MARCH 2008

Plea for Flood Control Funding
Critical Priority in Booming Region

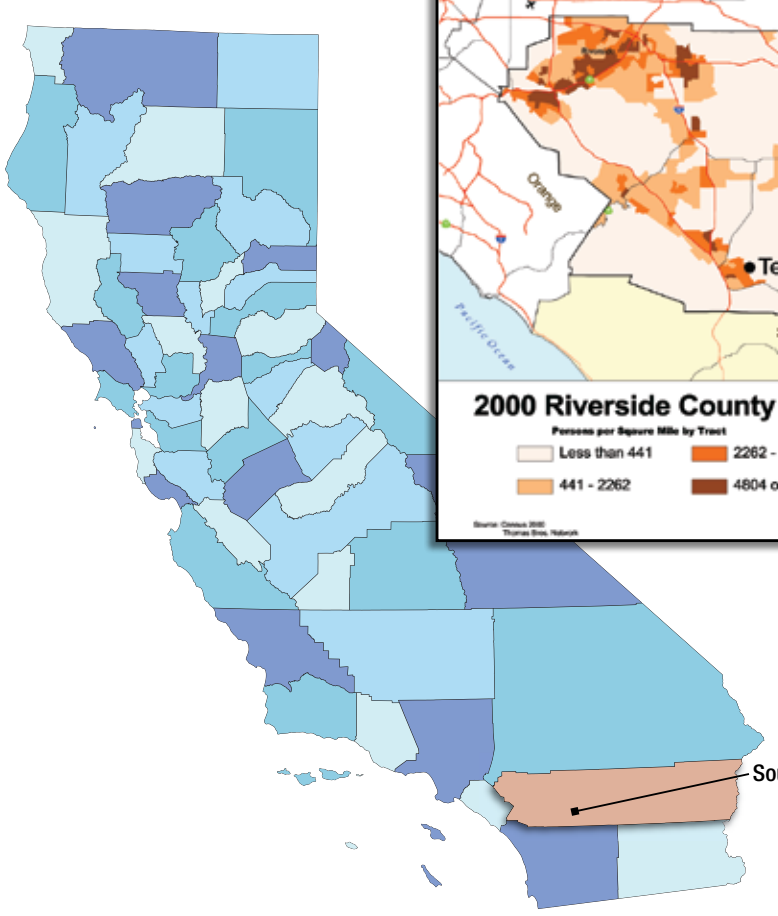
① BACKGROUND

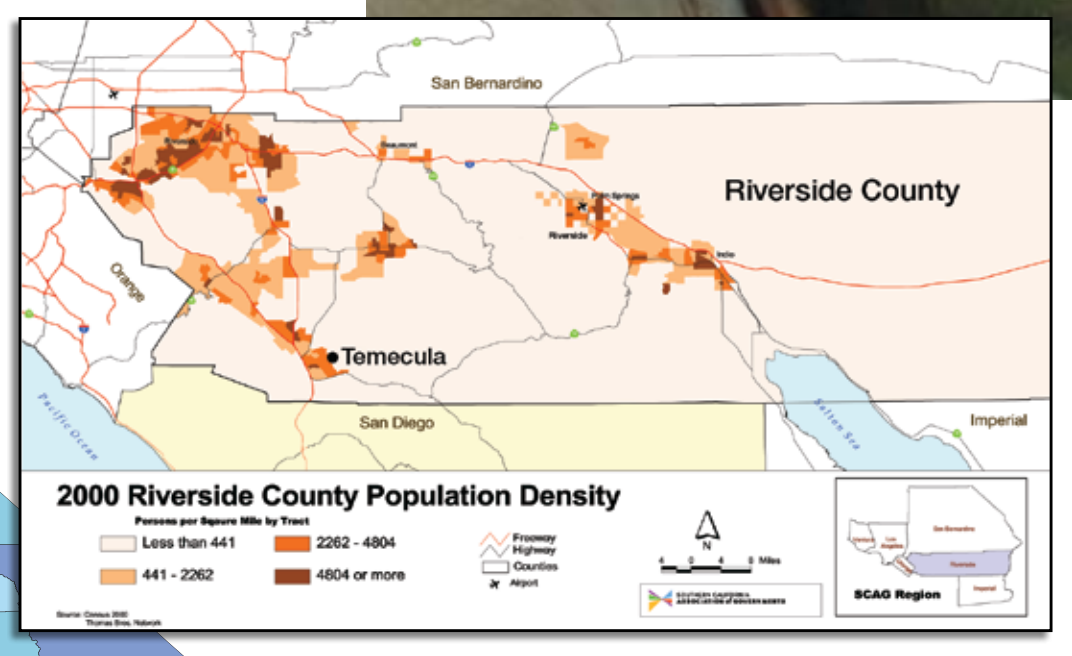
TEMECULA, CA - With a drainage area in excess of 220 square miles, Murrieta Creek traverses the cities of Temecula and Murrieta in the densely populated southwest region of Riverside County. Confluencing with Temecula Creek, it forms the Santa Margarita River which flows through Camp Pendleton Marine Base and on to the Pacific Ocean. As a result of repeated flood events, culminating with the catastrophic flood in 1993, the Army Corps of Engineers initiated a study on a 7.5 mile section of the creek, which lead to the 2000 Congressional recognition of the 4-phase Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project.

With Phase 1 complete, it is now of great importance that Phase 2 construction be initiated to further ensure public health and safety and protection of the vital riverine environment.

Below: Surging populations in Temecula and Murrieta have prompted rising concern over inadequate flood control and ensuing public safety and environmental impacts.

Murrieta Creek, January 17, 1993





Fastest Growing Counties in the Nation 1990 - 2000

Flagler County, FL	73.6%
Southwest Riverside County, CA	64%
Maricopa County, AZ	44.8%

Source: Riverside County EDA, 2008

"...we can't afford to stand by and watch history repeat itself"

1938 1969 1980	- Major flood events
1993	- Major flood event - Camp Pendleton incurs $88 million in damages - Local cities incur $20 million in damages
1995	- Major flood event
1997	- US Army Corps of Engineers initiates studies
1998	- Major flood event
2000	- Environmental Impact Report approved - House Conference Report 5483 recognizes Murrieta Creek as a viable federal project
2003	- Congress appropriates initial $1 million for Phase 1 construction
2005	- Phase 1 initial construction completed - Major flood event causes damage to new construction
2007	- Phase 1 damage construction completed - Appropriations to date total $17 million of the $117 million total project requirements
2014-2025	- Projected completion of 4-phase project subject to funding

② PUBLIC SAFETY AT RISK

WITH A HISTORY OF RECURRING FLOODING along Murrieta Creek, public health and safety as well as environmental impacts continue to be of great concern.

600 Homes and Commercial Structures
- $115 million in potential losses to public and private investment
- Loss of tourism, business losses and cost of flood insurance
- Residences and businesses on the west side of the creek isolated from police and fire services
- Existing bridges inadequate

Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base
- Threat to military readiness
- Threat to sewage treatment facility

Regional Sewage Treatment Facilities
- Threat to public health

Transportation Infrastructure
- Threat to goods movement
- Threat to emergency vehicular movement

③ OUR ENVIRONMENT AT RISK

THE ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES of Murrieta Creek and its associated hinterlands have been identified as a resource of extremely high concern. Several resource agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have stipulated that Murrieta Creek is one of the last high quality minimally disturbed riverine environments in Southern California.

The Santa Margarita Watershed
- Water quality in jeopardy – 303(d) Clean Water Act
- Home to over 500 plants, 236 bird species including the endangered Least Bell's Vireo, 52 mammals, 43 reptile species, 26 fish species and 24 species of aquatic invertebrates–all at risk

"I've supported and continue to support the improvements to Murrieta Creek which will prevent future damage like that which occurred in 1993." **- Congressman Darrell Issa, CA-49**

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MARCH 2008

Phase 2 – Winter 08 Schedule Contingent Upon Funding

④ A 4-PHASE SOLUTION

"This is a crucial regional project that is a high priority county-wide. I fully support all efforts to fund this project to allow it to be completed."

- Jeff Stone, Riverside County Supervisor, 3rd District

THE 7.5 MILE LONG 4-PHASE Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project will be constructed along Murrieta Creek in the cities of Murrieta and Temecula in Riverside County. It will:

- Improve flood control and storm water retention
- Enhance water conservation and supply
- Provide recreation-related opportunities along the Santa Margarita River and its tributaries in Riverside and San Diego counties

Flood Control Features

- Widening and deepening of Murrieta Creek from the USGS stream gauge in Temecula to Tenaja Road in Murrieta
- A flood control detention basin occupying approximately 270 acres on the eastern side of Murrieta Creek between Santa Gertrudis Channel to approximately 500 feet upstream of the confluence with Warm Springs Creek and bordering Adams Avenue, Cherry Street and Jefferson Avenue
- Stream bank protection features between Rancho California Road and First Street

Locally Funded Recreation Features

- Construction of a public park of about 49 acres in size within the easternmost portion of the detention basin. This will include parking lot, children's play area, shade structures, comfort station, barbecues, open space, walks, baseball and soccer fields, security lighting, pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian bridges spanning Santa Gertrudis Creek and Murrieta Creek
- Bicycle and equestrian/hiking trails along the eastern and western park in the detention basin, with undercrossing structures beneath the bridges on First Street, Rancho California Road, Winchester Road, Guava Street and Ivy Street

Environmental Restoration Features

- Constructing a low flow channel with natural backwaters
- Creating a transitional wetland habitat from freshwater marsh habitat to willow riparian woodland with an upland buffer of mulefat scrub and coastal sage scrub within a 163 acre site
- A 13.7 acre sediment catchment area at the confluence of Murrieta and Warm Springs Creeks

"As Mayor Pro Tem and Temecula City Council Member, I fully support every effort to obtain Federal funding for the continuation of construction efforts on the critical flood control project on Murrieta Creek. The north and south regional transportation facility is heavily dependent on completion of this major drainage facility."

- Maryann Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Temecula

Phase 4
Channel improvement through Murrieta
- Protection of Camp Pendleton sewage treatment facilities

Completion Goal: 2014

Phase 3
Multi-purpose detention basin environmental restoration
- 163 acres of new habitat
- 50 acres of recreational facilities

Projected Completion: Determined by Funding Appropriations

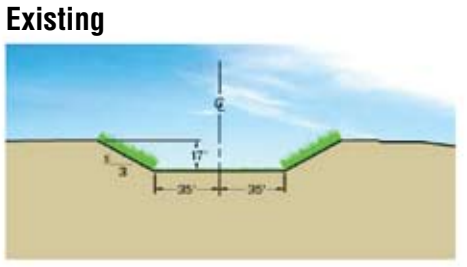
Phase 2
Flood protection for historic Old Town Temecula
- Dredging waterway from First St. to Winchester Rd.
- Reinforce channel walls with natural creek bottom

Design Complete: Winter 2008
Construction Est: Spring 2009

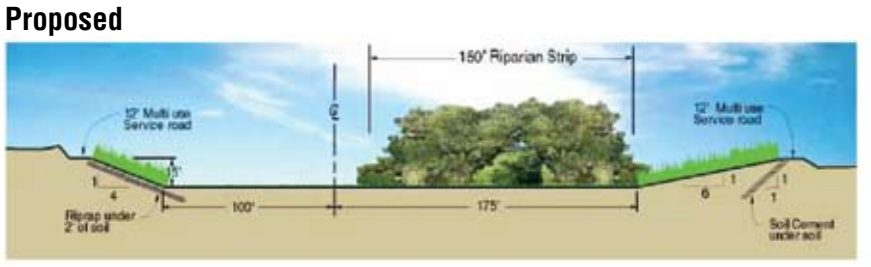
Phase 1
Channel improvements through the City of Temecula
- Widen creek from USGS stream gauge to First St.

Completed in 2007

Existing

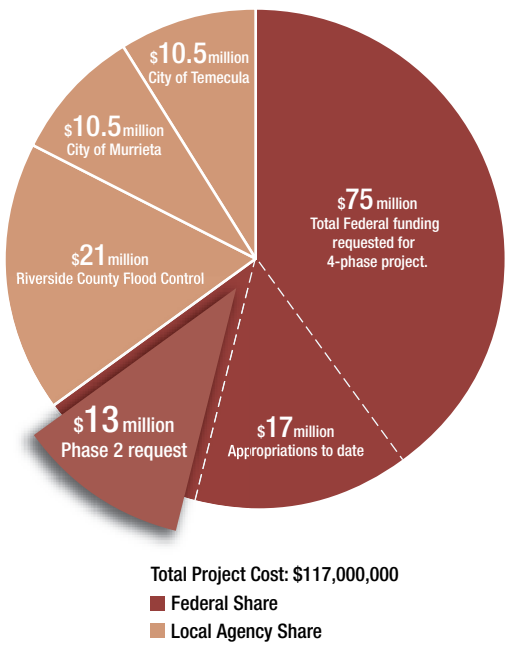


Proposed



⑤ PROJECT FUNDING

LOCAL AGENCIES have passed resolutions supporting and committing local fair-share funding and staffing.



⑥ OUR PHASE 2 REQUEST

THE TOTAL COST OF PHASE 2 of the Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project is estimated at $15 million dollars which includes approximately $2 million currently in appropriations.

The City of Temecula and supporting agencies request support from the Administration and Congress for a FY 2009 appropriation of **$13 million dollars** which will allow:

- Completion of the Design Documentation Report
- Initiation of construction
- 2014 four-phase completion

Without these improvements, public health and safety, vital riverine environment, local cities and businesses and Camp Pendleton water treatment plant facilities will remain at risk.

"Proper management of the upstream habitat and riparian areas will provide significant benefits to the integrity of the Santa Margarita River – the last protected, free-flowing river in Southern California. Both the Ecological Reserve and the Santa Margarita River would benefit from adequate flood control measures up stream, limiting the potential risks associated with extreme flood events."

- Matt Rahn, Ph.D., Director of the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, San Diego State University

For additional information concerning the Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Restoration and Recreation Project please contact the following supporting agencies:

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Temecula, CA 92589-9033

City of Murrieta
Pat Thomas, *Director of Public Works*
(951) 304-2489
26442 Beckman Court
Murrieta, CA 92562

US Army Corps of Engineers
David Van Dorpe, *Project Manager*
(213) 452-3998
915 Wilshire Blvd.,15th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3401

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Zully Smith, *Senior Civil Engineer, Special Projects Section*
(951) 955-1299
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Riverside, CA 92501