



Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance



September 16, 2021

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City of Santa Ana Planning Commission
22 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: General Plan Update related to Santiago Creek

The Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance (SCGA) (a local non-profit organization active since 1991) is dedicated to restoration of the entirety of the Santiago Creek and creation of a multi-purpose trail system along its banks. Please see our website at <https://www.santiagogreenway.org> for more information about our organization. We have been involved in the restoration of the Santiago Creek and the construction of an 8.5-mile trail system along its banks through the City of Orange.

We request that the City of Santa Ana indicate on the general plan update that the Santiago Creek is a blue line stream and an important resource to the community. We further request that a multi-purpose trail alignment be added along the creek from the terminus near the 5 Freeway connecting to the Santa Ana River Trail. These items should be indicated on most, if not all, of the General Plan Elements.

A grade separated Class 1 Bike Path and adjacent Riding and Hiking Trail is much safer than forcing bike riders and pedestrians to interface with vehicular traffic. We understand the creek route involves engineering, property rights, and access issues. The general plan only requires an approximate alignment of these proposed elements and the engineering and exact layout do not need to be determined at this time.

We respectfully request that the City of Santa Ana include in the General Plan Update:

1. A blue line designating the Santiago Creek on all maps;
2. Class 1 Bike Path and Riding and Hiking Trail along the creek from the terminus near the 5 freeway to the Santa Ana River Trail;
3. The goal of restoring the Santiago Creek.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (714) 997-8886.

Sincerely,

John Moore, President