SCR-1 Enhancements
The Need for Regional Leadership
Comment Now!

Jim Danza M.S.  AICP
Chair, Friends of the Santa Clara River
Mission:

- Protect and preserve the cultural and biological resources of the Santa Clara River Watershed
- 501(c)(3) public interest organization formed in 1993
- Education and Access
Agenda:

- River Issues Today
- The SCR-1 Project
- Can We Have Nice Things? The Betterments
- What We Need to Do
Among largest natural rivers in SoCal

- Santa Maria River
- Ventura River
- Santa Clara River Watershed
- Calleguas Coastal
- Los Angeles River
The Santa Clara River: Issues
# The Santa Clara River: Vision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Vision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impacted Ecology</td>
<td>Restored Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trash</td>
<td>No Trash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>Homefulness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorbikes and paintball</td>
<td>Motorbikes and paintball not in the river, in appropriate places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depleted Water Source</td>
<td>Conserved Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Bikeways, Education, Access</td>
<td>Make the river part of the community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Santa Clara River in Oxnard](image1.png)

![Santa Clara River in Oxnard](image2.png)
The Santa Clara River: Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impacted Ecology</td>
<td>Restoration underway in places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trash</td>
<td>Clean-ups, Source reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>Initiatives underway, need more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorbikes and paintball</td>
<td>Lack of control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depleted Water Supply</td>
<td>Few initiatives underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Bikeways, Education, Access</td>
<td>Lack of public spaces at river</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Santa Clara River in Oxnard
SCR-1 Project

2.8 miles of levee rehab upstream (east) from Hwy 101 to near Central Av.
SCR-1 Project

According the VCWPD, existing levee is no longer certifiable
SCR-1 Project

Project hardens the sides of one of southern California’s most natural rivers by turning the rock-lined slope into soil cement. First “concrete” to be added to the lower river.
Bike Trails and Amenities are Commonly Constructed with Flood Projects
Other Counties
Los Angeles and Orange County Bike Trails
The Santa Clara River Today
Can I go in the river?
Ventura County
County Plan to Own and Maintain
Encourage the integration of design features into flood control projects, when feasible: to address resource conservation and restoration and preservation of natural riparian habitats, to provide groundwater recharge, to enhance water quality, to protect scenic vistas, and to incorporate recreational areas or opportunities.
Climate Change and Community Health

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
Vegetation for Carbon Capture and Neighborhood Cooling  
Air Quality  
Communities with Amenities are Healthier, County Health Goals

◆ Community engagement  
◆ Walkable/Opportunities for safe exercise  
◆ Urban design impacts health - American Planning Association
Without River Knowledge…

How do we expect people to . . .

- Protect themselves from flooding
- Know their water source
- Understand farming issues
- Protect the environment
- Vote in their own interest
Ventura County Watershed Protection District

- SCR-1 Stakeholder Sub-Committees

A few of the invited participants:

- Neighborhood Cncl
- Property Owners/TNC
- Schools
- City of Oxnard
- US/CA Fish and Wildlife
- Coastal Conservancy
- Sierra Club
- FSCR
Stakeholder Committee Formed

## SCR-1 Stakeholder Subgroups

Final output of each subgroup is needed by December 3, 2018 to ensure inclusion in the Section 408 60% submittal to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Output received after this date may not be included in the project design.

### Levee Surface Design – Champion FOSCR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Goal(s)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riverpark Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>Research and propose levee erosion control treatments that provide enhanced integrated watershed management principles as well as meet approval of regulatory agencies, including but not limited to: native habitat enhancement (flora and fauna), surface water infiltration, safety, and graffiti deterrent design.</td>
<td>Monthly meetings: June, July, August, September, October, November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Oxnard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA Native Plant Society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventura Audubon Society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara Meeker – SCR Watershed Committee (as available)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USFWS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDFW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Club</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWRCB Storm Water Planning Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetra Tech</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Environmental Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Levee Trail – Champion City of Oxnard (Pending: Eric Humel – eric.humel@oxnard.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Goal(s)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riverpark Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>Identify access points, locations for rest areas, amenities, signs, methods to avoid private property impacts, trash abatement, safety, reduce homeless conflicts, improve school and community access, avoid conflicts with District Operations and Maintenance activities, establish a flood closure procedure.</td>
<td>Monthly meetings: June, July, August, September, October, November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Oxnard Police Department</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOSCR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Coastal Conservancy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio School District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd-Butler Ranch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Islands Bike Club (Terry Sprague – <a href="mailto:cyclezealot@gmail.com">cyclezealot@gmail.com</a>)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventura Bike Hub (Joey Jukans-Lukomski – <a href="mailto:Joey@bikeventura.org">Joey@bikeventura.org</a>)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventura County Transportation Commission (Steve DeGeorge – <a href="mailto:sdegeorge@poventura.org">sdegeorge@poventura.org</a>; Andrew Kent – <a href="mailto:akent@poventura.org">akent@poventura.org</a>)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventura Audubon Society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAUSE (Aracely Preciado)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy (Kat Selm – <a href="mailto:kat.selm@tnc.org">kat.selm@tnc.org</a>)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara Meeker, SCRWC (as available)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Club</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASPEN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventura County Stormwater Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetra Tech</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Protection for UWCD Spreading Grounds – Champion UWCD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VCCWD</th>
<th>Goal(s)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify funding for installation and long term maintenance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results of Committee’s Hard Work

Santa Clara River Trail with Education Exhibits

Project impacts could be mitigated and softened with “betterments”, such as soil cover with vegetation and a bikeway.
SCR - 1 will be ready for a bikeway and relies on school for short education segment. But, County has not committed to:

1. Championing Betterments
2. Seeking Funds
3. Including in Design or EIR

These are feasible!
2018 Stakeholder Process Results

Stakeholder Process Overview

On track.  
- **Goal 1:** Certify & Accredit SCR-1 Levee, Provide Flood Protection - i.e., base model no extras

Done.  
- **Goal 2:** Efficiently Explore Feasibility of Desired Extras - Grant Expires July 2021

Done.  
- **Stakeholder Role:** Your perspective is valuable! With your input, we can quickly screen feasibility of extras.
  - You may be asked to further research your ideas
  - Please commit to the process for continuity

Feasible!  
- **District Role:** Explore feasible extras, which may become part of the project. Infeasible extras will not move forward

Write Sups!  
- **Board Of Supervisors Role:** Makes the final decision to approve base project plus extras. Public benefit, feasibility, and cost are carefully considered.
Ventura Countywide Bicycle Master Plan (VCTC Oct 2007)

- No River Trail, except segments along Santa Paula Branch Line
- Shows City of Ventura Olivas Park Drive trail to beach
- Out of date. This and other plans “encourage” expansion or “promote” a county bike network, ie County 2040 General Plan

County is currently not prioritizing River Trail expansion in unincorporated county territory

Only a Few Cities have taken on biking trail expansion, such as Fillmore, Santa Paula, and Ventura.
County Leadership Should…

1. Take full lead of planning, funding, and constructing, in conjunction of with local cities and other government organization

2. Direct Watershed Protection District, Park and Recreation Dept, or other entity to make it happen

3. Leverage all funding sources and methods, such as
   a. Levee Project Grants and Loans Federal and State Programs
   b. Coordination and partner with cities, state and federal, county health, philanthropy, and non-profit
   c. Consider County-wide Assessments
Non-profits Can Assist!

Non-profit/Community/Orgs Potential Role:
• Adopt-a-trail, Trail Monitors
• River Clean-ups
• Restoration and Native Plant Gardens
• Lead education walks and bike rides

Non-profits Do Much of the Hard Work, for free!
County Gov is Empowered

Ventura County Watershed Protection Act California Water Code Appendix, Chapter 46.
district shall have...the following powers:
- To acquire, **construct, maintain, operate, and install** recreational facilities or landscaping **within the district** ...in which the district **participates in the cost of construction, operation, or maintenance**, or in the cost of land acquisition therefor.

CA Dept Water Resources Flood Management Projects:
When planning and executing our projects, we consider a broad range of potential benefits to improve their value to Californians and their communities:
- **Enhance fisheries/wildlife habitat**
- **Improve recreation and open spaces**

Integrated regional water management (IRWM) ... water managers ... in a collaborative, open, and transparent manner, are best suited and best positioned to manage water resources **Issues**...
- **Recreation**
- **Cultural considerations**

Ventura River Trail
The Santa Clara River Loop: 
Proposal: Sierra Club, FSCR

- Grant from National Park Service
- Endorsed by County and Cities
- Gets trail “construction grant ready”, but needs CEQA

Plan to be released Fall 2021

- Eventually to beach and Piru

Go to FSCR.org and YouTube Channel for Videos
Please Attend and Comment!

Suggested Comments (modified):
1. Take full lead of planning, funding, and constructing of trail, education features and levee soil/vegetation cover, and partner with local cities and other government organization

2. Direct Watershed Protection District, Park and Recreation Dept, or other entity to make it happen

3. Leverage all funding sources and methods, such as
   a. Levee Project Grants and Loans, Federal and State Programs
   b. Coordinate and partner with cities, state and federal, county health, philanthropy, and non-profits
What We Need to Do, Write County Supervisors and City Leaders

District 1 - Matt LaVere
800 S. Victoria Ave., L#1900, Ventura, CA 93009
Phone: (805) 654-2703 | Fax: (805) 654-2226
Email: Matt.LaVere@ventura.org

District 2 - Supervisor Linda Parks
625 West Hillcrest Drive Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Phone: (805) 214-2510 | Fax: (805) 480-0585
Toll Free Number: (800) 660-5474
Email: Linda.Parks@ventura.org

District 3 - Supervisor Kelly Long
1203 Flynn Road, Suite 220, Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: (805) 654-2276 | Fax: (805) 654-2226
Email: kelly.long@ventura.org

District 4 - Supervisor Bob Huber
980 Enchanted Way #203, Simi Valley, California 93065
Phone: (805) 955-2300 | Fax: (805) 578-1822
Email: supervisor.huber@ventura.org

District 5 - Supervisor Carmen Ramirez
800 S. Victoria Ave., L#1860, Ventura, CA 93009
Phone: (805) 654-2613
Email: Carmen.Ramirez@ventura.org