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# **SAN JUAN CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STUDY ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

## **FEASIBILITY PHASE**

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# **HAZARDOUS TOXIC RADIOACTIVE WASTE APPENDIX**

**AUGUST 2002**

**SAN JUAN CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STUDY  
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**HAZARDOUS TOXIC RADIOACTIVE WASTE (HTRW) ASSESSMENT**

A preliminary HTRW assessment was conducted on the San Juan Creek Watershed, in the areas where the alternatives may involve construction or soil moving. These alternatives include channel widening, detention basins, and environmental restoration. Areas of potential environmental hazards were identified in these areas.

An August 1998 environmental regulatory database report prepared by Vista Information Services (Vista) was reviewed for background information. Sites, which were mapped as adjacent to the creek that had reported releases, as well as sites in close proximity that had releases that impacted underlying groundwater, are described below. Since this database does not include sites of environmental concern that have been discovered since 1998, an up to date database will be reviewed when the final array of alternatives is selected. Aerial photographs from August 1998 were also reviewed. Historic aerial photographs will be reviewed at a later date to evaluate whether past uses may have had an impact on the project area. A cursory pedestrian survey was also conducted for this phase of study. A more thorough inspection will be conducted once the final alternatives have been selected.

The following summarizes the results of the study:

**A. San Juan Creek**

*San Juan Creek: Pacific Ocean (Station 100+00) to Trabuco Creek Confluence (Station 139+00). This reach is included in alternatives for channel widening and environmental restoration.*

The streambed throughout this reach has the potential to contain impacted soil due to municipal and agricultural runoff, an adjacent industrial zone, adjacent present and former wastewater treatment plants, incidences of leaking petroleum USTs on the adjacent banks, and potential illegal dumping. Miscellaneous debris was observed in the streambed. The left bank area downstream of the Stonehill Bridge contains mostly vacant disturbed land, including remnants of a former water treatment plant. Miscellaneous machinery and debris exists on the vacant land. A nursery and boatyard also are present. Left bank north of the Stonehill Bridge are disturbed vacant land, a trailer park, and a light industrial park. Near the confluence of Trabuco Creek are vacant disturbed land, and a new commercial building just downstream of the Metrolink Bridge. The left bank area can potentially contain impacted soil and groundwater from current and past usage. Right bank is predominantly residential developments including trailer parks, apartment complexes, single-family dwellings, and a new residential development under construction at the site of a former RV storage lot. Public right of ways also exists adjacent to portions of the creek. Present usage has a low potential for environmental impact, except for the existing wastewater treatment plant and municipal yards near the Camino Las Ramblas Bridge, as described in the Vista section below. Analysis of past usage of the right bank area may lead to additional environmental concerns.

Vista identified the following sites, which represent a potential environmental concern due to releases adjacent or in close proximity to San Juan Creek:

- South East Regional Reclamation/SERRA, 34152 Del Obispo, Dana Point. Leaking waste oil from an underground storage tank (UST) impacted the groundwater in 1987. The case was closed in 1990.
- Orange County Capo Yard/San Juan Capistrano Maintenance Yard, 34102 Del Obispo, Dana Point. A leaking UST impacted the soil with diesel in 1988, and the case was closed in 1989.
- Cannon Bart, Inc. 25742 Victoria, Capistrano Beach. A gasoline UST was reported leaking in 1991, and the groundwater was impacted with free product. Remediation began in 1993.
- Del Obispo Disposal Station #3, 34052 Del Obispo Road, Dana Point. This is a closed solid waste disposal facility.
- Rayne Water, 33021 Calle Perfecto, San Juan Capistrano. Gasoline leaking from a UST impacted the groundwater in 1992. Remediation was conducted and the case was closed in 1997.

*San Juan Creek, Trabuco Creek Confluence (Station 139+00) through 600 meters upstream of La Novia Bridge (Station 180+00). This reach is included in channel widening and environmental restoration alternatives.*

The streambed in this area may potentially be impacted from municipal and agricultural runoff or illegal dumping. Miscellaneous trash and debris, particularly near the Camino Capistrano Bridge, was observed in the streambed. Downstream of I-5, commercial shopping centers and a public park are present right bank and vacant land and public roadways are present left bank. Upstream of I-5 are vacant land, public open space, and a horse stable immediately adjacent right bank. A complex of commercial/municipal buildings are present to the west of a portion of the public parkland. Two pumping stations are present within the parkland north of the La Novia Bridge. Remnants of machinery are present in the streambed north of the bridge. Left bank upstream from I-5 are nurseries, a veterinary clinic, a retirement complex, a golf course, two schools, and rural properties with residential and agricultural use. Agricultural properties have the potential to contain unregistered USTs.

Vista identified the following site, which represents a potential environmental concern due its potential to impact area water quality:

- Forster Canyon Landfill (Closed), Forster Canyon Road, San Juan Capistrano. This is a closed Class III (nonhazardous solid wastes) landfill, which is ranked as having a moderate threat to water quality. Although mapped on the Vista database adjacent to

San Juan Creek at the location of the San Juan Hills Country Club, Orange County records show that it is actually about 1,950 feet from the creek, and 400 feet from the golf course.

*San Juan Creek, Ortega Highway Bridge (Station 189+00) to 2,000 meters north of Cal Mat Bridge (Station 261+00). Alternatives proposed within this reach include a detention basin between Stations 217+00 and 234+00 (north of the Antonio Parkway Bridge), environmental restoration north and south of the Antonio Parkway Bridge, and environmental restoration north of the Cal Mat Bridge.*

The streambed in this area may potentially be impacted from agricultural runoff, illegal dumping, or chemicals used in the nearby mining operations. The left bank area near the Antonio Parkway Bridge contains large nurseries upstream and downstream of the bridge. Right bank is cultivated agriculture downstream, and disturbed land with a building under construction upstream. Agricultural facilities can potentially contain unregistered USTs. The area upstream of the Cal Mat Bridge contains access roads and several aggregate mining operations, including a large operation right bank with aggregate processing equipment. Such a facility may contain chemicals such as inorganic treatment chemicals, chlorinated solvents, diesel, and gasoline.

Vista identified the following sites, which represent a potential environmental concern due to releases adjacent or in close proximity to San Juan Creek:

*Near Antonio Bridge:*

- Prima Deschecha Landfill is described as located at Ortega Highway at La Plata Avenue and accepting RCRIS hazardous waste. However, an Orange County representative reports that it is actually over a mile south of San Juan Creek, and is a non hazardous waste facility.
- Vermullen Agricultural Field, Ortega Highway at La Plata. Fuel waste was spilled at this site, and the case was closed in 1990.

*Near Cal Mat Bridge:*

- California Silica Products Co., 31302 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. This facility maintains two diesel USTs and one gasoline UST. A leaking diesel UST impacted the soil in 1990, and a leaking gasoline UST impacted the soil in 1993. In both cases regulatory agency closure was obtained.
- Osleboy Norton Industrial Sands, 31302 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. A leaking diesel UST impacted the underlying soil in 1997. Action on the case was pending as of the 1998 Vista report.

- Solag Disposal – Maintenance Yard, 31641 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. This waste transfer facility maintains a UST. No releases were reported.
- Catalina Pacific Concrete, 31511 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. This facility maintains a UST, but no releases were reported.
- Cal Mat, 31511 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. At this aggregate mining facility, a gasoline UST impacted the soil in 1990. The case was closed in 1991.
- San Juan Company, 31471 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. A gasoline UST leaked into the soil in 1990. The case was closed in 1991.

## **B. Trabuco Creek**

*San Juan Creek Confluence (Station 102+00) to Del Obispo Bridge (Station 110+00). Alternatives proposed within this reach involve channel widening.*

The streambed throughout this reach has the potential to contain impacted soil due to municipal and agricultural runoff, an adjacent commercial/industrial zone with petroleum USTs, and potential illegal dumping. Miscellaneous debris was observed in the streambed. Adjacent to the stream channel right bank are residential areas, and left bank is Paseo Adelanto, east of which is a commercial/industrial zone.

Vista identified the following sites, which represent a potential environmental concern due to releases adjacent or in close proximity to San Juan Creek:

- Solag Disposal, 31731 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano. A gasoline UST leaked into the soil on this site in 1997. Impacted soil was disposed of and the case was closed. The facility currently maintains a diesel UST.
- San Juan Rent-It Service, 32202 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano. This facility maintains a UST with undisclosed contents.
- City of San Juan Capistrano, 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano. This facility maintains two gasoline USTs and one diesel UST. In 1986 gasoline leaked from a UST and impacted the underlying groundwater aquifer. The case was closed in 1987.

*Downstream of Oso Creek Confluence (Station 132+00) to I-5 Bridge (Station 145+00). Alternatives proposed within this reach involve environmental restoration.*

The streambed throughout this reach has the potential to contain impacted soil due to municipal and agricultural runoff, and potential illegal dumping. The area adjacent to the stream downstream of Camino Capistrano is predominantly agricultural, with orchards on both banks of the stream. Unregistered USTs, which typically contain diesel or gasoline, are

sometimes found on agricultural properties. The creek is confined to a concrete channel between Camino Capistrano and I-5.

Vista identified three service stations with leaking USTs on Junipero Serra Road at the I-5 interchange, but these are not in close proximity to Trabuco Creek.

*Trabuco Creek, Downstream of Crown Valley Parkway Bridge, Stations 167+00 through 187+00. Alternatives proposed within this reach include environmental restoration and a detention basin.*

The streambed throughout this reach has the potential to contain impacted soil due to municipal and agricultural runoff, potential illegal dumping, and nearby aggregate mining activities.

Vista identified one site in the immediate vicinity:

- Blue Diamond Materials, 26772 Avery Parkway, is an aggregate mining operation immediately adjacent to the project area. This facility reportedly maintains one 22,000 gallon steel diesel UST. No leaks were reported. *Note: Aggregate mining facilities may also contain chlorinate solvents and inorganic processing chemicals.*

In addition, Saddleback College, located on a bluff above Trabuco Creek right bank, was reported by Vista to have five gasoline and diesel USTs in service. One gasoline UST leaked and impacted the soil in 1994. The case was closed in 1996.

### **C. Oso Creek**

*Vicinity of Galivan Detention Basin, Upstream of Crown Valley Parkway, Between Stations 152+00 and 168+00. Environmental restoration is proposed for the Galivan Detention Basin*

The detention basin has sand walls and invert. The sand can potentially be impacted by municipal, industrial, or agricultural runoff, or illegal dumping.

Since this is an industrial zone, numerous sites were listed by Vista as using or storing chemicals. However, only the following sites in the site vicinity were listed as having had a release as of 1998:

- Penny Saver, 27742 Forbes Road, Laguna Niguel. Gasoline leaked from a UST in 1987 and impacted the underlying groundwater. The case was closed by 1993.
- Boukather (Star Motors), 27762 Forbes Road, Laguna Niguel. A waste oil UST leaked in 1988 and impacted the groundwater. The case was closed in 1997.

- Pacific Bell, 27472 Camino Capistrano, Laguna Niguel. A UST containing gasoline leaked in 1990 and impacted the underlying groundwater. The case received regulatory closure in 1997.
- Fluorocarbons Company, 27931 Cabot Road, Laguna Niguel. A diesel UST leaked and impacted the soil in 1986. The soil was excavated and disposed of, and the case was closed that same year.

*Mission Viejo Country Club golf course, bordered upstream by Oso Parkway and downstream by I-5. The entire reach is bounded by the golf course on both banks, and the creek runs through pipes or becomes subsurface flow for approximately 300 feet within the golf course. Environmental restoration is proposed for the golf course area.*

The streambed throughout this reach has the potential to contain impacted soil due to municipal and agricultural runoff.

Vista did not identify any sites in the immediate vicinity of Trabuco Creek in this area. However, two service stations are located upgradient in close proximity to the golf course at the Oso Parkway/I-5 interchange.