

Sunnyslope Creek Native Fish Drought Response Project Grant Application

Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager
SAWPA Commission | November 16, 2021

Item 6.A.



Conservation Team

Purpose of Presentation

Receive Commission approval of the Sunnyslope Creek Native Fish Drought Response Project 's grant application to the Department of Water Resources for the 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Application.

2021
Urban and
Multibenefit
Drought Relief
Grant Program

Guidelines and
Proposal
Solicitation
Package

Published: October 2021

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DIVISION OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE



DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program

- Final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) posted October 28, 2021.
- \$190 million in grant funding available for immediate relief in response to California drought.
- Addresses immediate impacts on human health and safety and on fish and wildlife.



Drought Relief Grant Program – More Information

- DWR accepting applications on November 19, 2021,
- DWR funding awards start in December 2021,
- No local cost share required,
 - Very unique for State grants as often the cost share required is 50% of total project costs.
- Costs incurred after award date are eligible for reimbursement, and
- Project must be complete by **March 31, 2026.**



Project for Approval

Sunnyslope Creek Native Fish Drought Response Project

- Project is of interest to San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Orange County Water District as additional flow to Sunnyslope Creek assists them with their habitat-related regulatory requirements.



Riverside County Parks Nature Center (Burned)

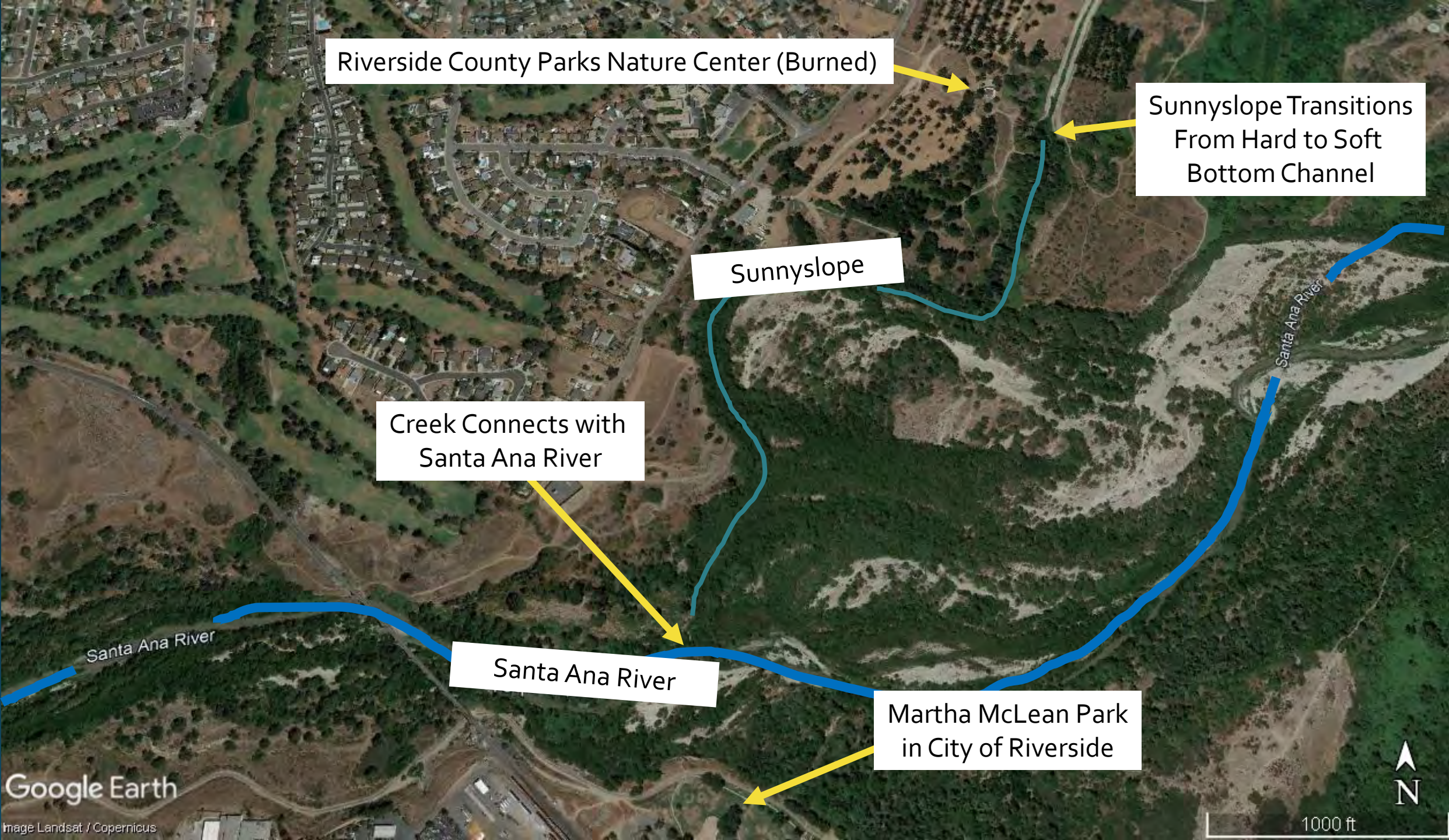
Sunnyslope Transitions
From Hard to Soft
Bottom Channel

Sunnyslope

Creek Connects with
Santa Ana River

Santa Ana River

Martha McLean Park
in City of Riverside



Sunnyslope Creek



OCWD Photo: Sunnyslope Creek in November 2019



OCWD Photo: Sucker fish in Sunnyslope Creek

Impact of Drought on Sunnyslope

- OCWD has tracked native fish through annual surveys in Sunnyslope.
 - SAWA is a primary partner on the creek.
- Santa Ana sucker presence has declined over recent years.
- From 2013 to 2020, the creek has completely dry sections during the summer months.
- Flow has been so low during OCWD/SAWA surveys that it is not measurable with a flow meter.

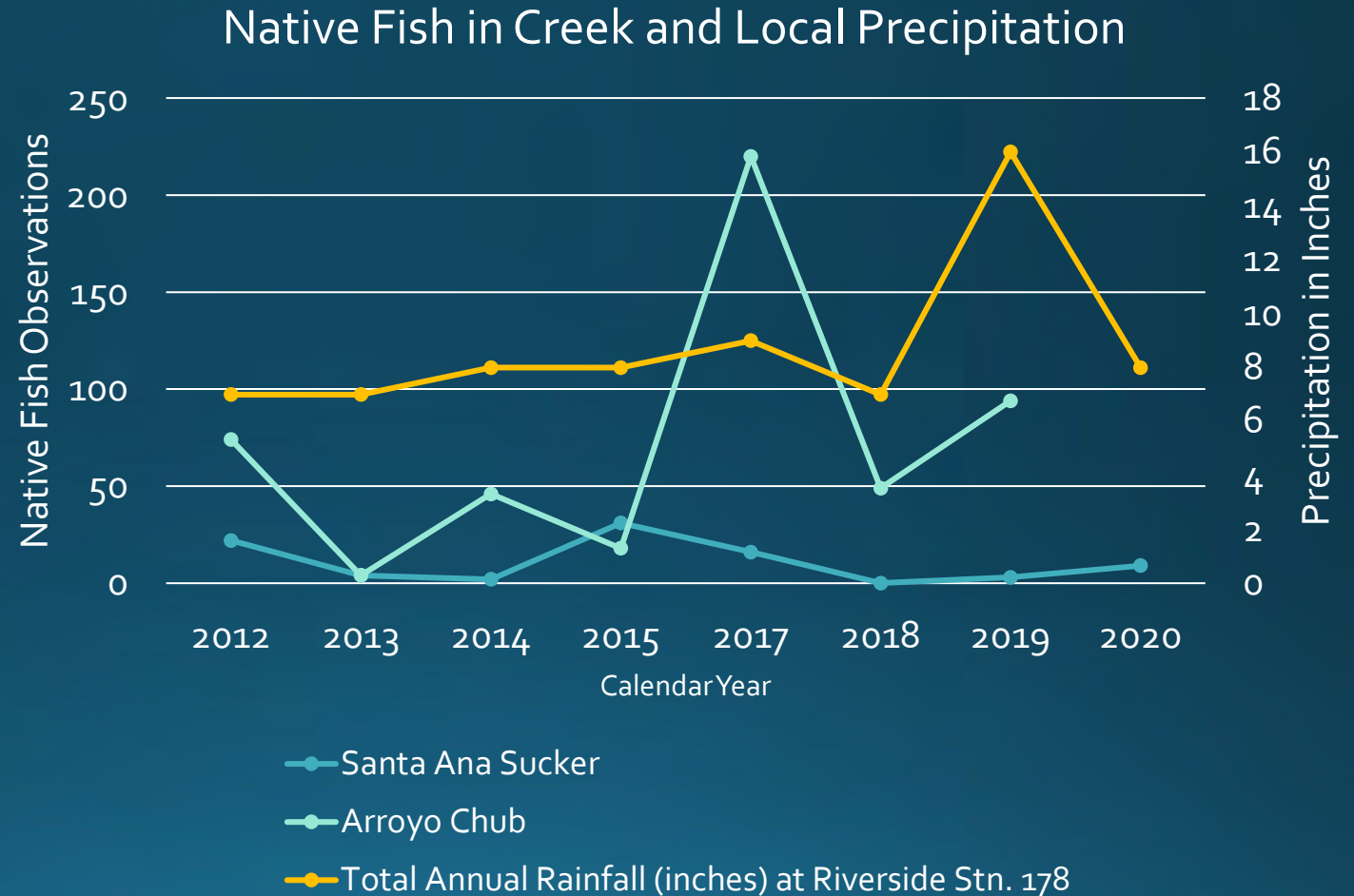


Chart Notes: No fish monitoring in 2016. Sucker monitored through video and Chub through electro-fishing.

Project Budget

Major budget items included within construction line item:

- \$1,000,000 for two 150 gallon per minute groundwater wells that utilize submersible pumps, and
- \$750,000 for 40,000-gallon bolted steel storage tank.



<u>Budget Line Item</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Project Management	\$ 417,750
Land Purchase/Easements	\$ -
Planning, Design, CEQA, Permitting	\$ 275,000
Construction	\$ 2,510,000
Total	\$ 3,202,750

Note: No cost share required.

Groundwater from wells will be used for Creek habitat and to meet Riverside County Parks' irrigation needs.

Project Schedule

Year:	2021	2022				2023				2024			
Quarter:	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Grant Application	█												
Grant Award and DWR Negotiation		█											
Permitting and Planning			█				█						
Design and Construction Bid Preparation				█		█							
Construction								█		█			

Site of Wells
And Storage Tank

Riverside County Parks Property

Sunnyslope

Discharge Point
To Creek

Santa Ana River



Project Benefits

- 485 acre feet per year,
 - This provides 4 CFS of flow to the creek, and
 - Also provides irrigation water for 40 acres on Riverside County Parks property.
- 0.9 stream miles of habitat, and
- Additional flow to tributary assists OCWD and SBVMWD with their habitat-related regulatory requirements.



Conservation Team as Project Lead

- Conservation Team is focused on monitoring Santa Ana River habitat and implementing projects to improve habitat for Santa Ana Sucker (native fish),
 - Team members: SAWPA, OCWD and City of Riverside.
 - There is funding within the Sucker Team budget to fund staff time for writing grant application.
 - SBVMWD has provided support as they have executed a contract with consulting firm, WSC, to provide technical support on the grant application.
 - OCWD has provided extensive field survey data and technical assistance in developing the grant application.



Conservation Team

Interagency Coordination to Date

- SAWPA has coordinated with the following parties on the project:
 - **Riverside County Parks and Open-Space District**, who owns land in the project area and wells/tank would be sited on/near their property,
 - **Riverside County Flood Control**, who also owns land in the Sunnyslope creek area,
 - **Western Municipal Water District**, who is involved in the groundwater basin known as the “Riverside Basin Area (Riverside South)” where wells would be installed,
 - **Rubidoux Community Services District**, which is the retail water agency who serves potable water to customers in the area, and
 - **City of Riverside**, who also has groundwater wells in the groundwater basin.



Recommendation

Approve the Sunnyslope Creek Native Fish Drought Response Project's grant application to the Department of Water Resources for the 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Application by adopting SAWPA Resolution No. 2021-9.