

**Appendix E:
Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance Letter**

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Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance



Officers and Directors

*John T. Moore,
President*

*Pamela Galera
Vice-President*

*David Piper,
Secretary
Treasurer*

Advisory Board

*Jim Donovan,
National Parks
Service*

*Shirley Grindle,
Campaign Reform
Activist*

*Peter Wetzel,
Regional
Recreational Trails
Advisory Committee*

*Marilyn Moore,
Treasurer, OC
Friends of Music*

*Jeanne Carter
Teacher, Director,
El Modena Nature
Center*

*W. Michael Short
Director, Orange
County Master
Chorale.*

Mr. Robert Garcia, Senior Planner
City of Orange, Community Development Department, Planning Division
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92866

Re: Draft EIR – The Trails at Santiago Creek

Dear Mr. Garcia,

This letter provides comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report dated February 23, 2018 for the Trails at Santiago Creek Specific Plan (the "EIR"). We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the project.

The Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to improving public use and enjoyment of Santiago Creek. Our mission statement is:

To create a greenway and trail system along the general course of Santiago Creek and to preserve and enhance its ecological, scenic, historical and recreational resources.

We Support Creek, Trails and Open Space. We have reviewed the EIR from the perspective of our mission statement and we believe that the trail system and open space allocation described in the EIR are very supportive of our vision for the Santiago Creek Trail and Greenway. They provide a major part of the added trail needed to link the existing Santiago Creek Trail to Santiago Oaks Regional Park. In addition, the provided open space can become a very scenic element of the Greenway. For these reasons we support this project. We take no position on the many concerns regarding the housing elements of the project. However there are other concerns that we would like to comment on. They are: trail connectivity, site remediation and site care and maintenance.

Trail Connectivity and Circulation. The proposed trail plan does not include a link to the existing Santiago Creek Trail which currently ends on the west side of Cannon Street. Without this linkage, the proposed trail system will not provide its valuable addition to the Santiago Creek Trail. It will be merely an amenity to the proposed housing project. It is essential that one of the proposed trails connect to the existing Santiago Creek Trail west of Cannon and to the existing Mabury Ranch Trail on the east side of the project site.

Site Remediation. We saw little in the EIR describing any remediation steps the property owner is committing to take with respect to the creek and surrounding open space. We would like the City to make sure that the site is cleaned up and put back to a natural state (free of hazardous mining debris and waste) as part of any approval of this project.

Care and Maintenance. We would love to see this section of Santiago Creek turned into an extension of Santiago Oaks Regional Park, or other similar park, cared for and maintained by OC Parks as part of the regional park system in the area. This will assure the trees and plants will be maintained, the trails cared for, and the creek properly managed in perpetuity. In order to have a long-lasting greenway and public enjoyment of the site, we believe a permanent steward such as OC Parks is necessary.

Sincerely:

John Moore
President, SCGA

Pamela Galera
Vice President SCGA

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APR 02 2018

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