

Thank you, Chair Napolitano and Ranking Member Rouzer, for hosting Members' Day for members to share their requests for the Water Resources Development Act of 2022.

Today, I'd like to highlight a project that is in the heart of my district.

In the 1986 Water Resources Development Act, the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (Project) was fully authorized as a flood-risk management project that included environmental features, restoration of temporary loss of habitat values, cultural mitigation, and a 32 mile system of recreation trails.

The Project, which includes the Santiago Creek component, also received funding under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BB18) so that all components could be completed as designed and approved. The Santiago Creek work represents the last component of the Project. Despite the Congressional mandate to complete the work on the Project, the Santiago Creek component is threatened because the Corps is facing unanticipated cost increases which limit its ability to implement construction for all of the projects funded under BB18.

For that reason, my request would raise the authorized federal help for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project by an additional \$170 million so that it could be completed as designed and approved, including all components.

Additionally, the only recreation and esthetic treatment for the portion near the Santiago Creek currently authorized for the Creek in the project is a 1.7 mile bike path. My constituents in Santa Ana have limited access to green space, and it's important to the health of our community that we maximize every opportunity to provide additional recreational areas.

To that end, I am also requesting \$10 million to conduct a study, design, and construction on modification to the Project to direct the Army Corps to add recreational areas along the Santiago Creek and at the confluence of the Santiago Creek and the Santa Ana River, as well as directing the Corps to incorporate natural infrastructure, including vegetation along the Santiago Creek and at the confluence of the Santiago Creek and the Santa Ana River consistent with the Army Corps' Engineering with Nature policy, where appropriate.

I thank the Committee again for this opportunity to discuss an important project to provide hardworking Santa Ana residents with recreational space. Access to public recreational space can improve physical and mental health and foster a love of the outdoors and conservation in our youth. Americans support and recognize the benefits that public recreational spaces offer and how they can transform our cities into vibrant and healthy communities. Santa Ana residents deserve to have access to natural resources in our city, and I urge the Committee to support this additional funding and investment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter and I look forward to continuing to work with you on these and other issues and I yield back the balance of my time.