

From: Barbara Metzger <barbarapmetzger@gmail.com>
Subject: EIR/EIS for Aliso Creek
Date: October 10, 2017 at 13:35:27 MDT
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Here's the address for the Aliso Creek EIR/EIS:

<http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-Studies/Aliso-Creek-Study/>

The public hearing is October 17 at 6 p.m. at the Laguna Hills Community Center and Sports Complex, 25555 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills.

The deadline for comments is November 13, to be sent to Eduardo T. De Mesa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Attn: Deborah Lamb (CESPL-PDR-L), 915 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 930, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

Derek Ostensen is coming to talk to Village Laguna about it on October 23 at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 429 Cypress Drive. Here's what I've written for the newsletter to announce that meeting:

The “SUPER Project” Returns: Long-Dormant Plan for Aliso Creek Channelization Gets Environmental Review [HERE USE PHOTO]

The Army Corps of Engineers' proposal for getting control of Aliso Creek and protecting the sewer pipes that run alongside it in the Wilderness Park is back on the County's agenda. A 500-plus-page environmental impact report is being circulated this month, with a deadline for comments of November 13

(<http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-Studies/Aliso-Creek-Study/>). A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Laguna Hills Community Center, 25555 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills.

Village Laguna has been opposing versions of this proposal for about a

dozen years. What's involved is grading Aliso Canyon from Alicia Parkway to the coastal sewage treatment plant; raising the creek bed 7–21 feet and recontouring the slopes; introducing “sinuosity” to the channel: disciplining the flow with 46 dams (now called “riffles”) built of riprap, some of it grouted; and then replanting the whole area with native vegetation, at which point the displaced wildlife, including several threatened or endangered species, will ideally return. The work will produce 300,000 cubic yards of excess excavated material to be disposed of on the canyon slopes.

The work is to be divided into four stages beginning in consecutive years. Since the project was first proposed the cost has, of course, more than doubled (from \$45 million to \$96 million) and the County's share of it has tripled (from \$11 million to \$33 million). An alternative approach proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that would raise the creek bed while preserving the existing riparian vegetation in place is briefly described in the report but considered “probably not cost-effective.”

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