

URGENT ALERT:

Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park



Endangered Species at Risk

Numerous sensitive species would be displaced.



Huge Taxpayer Cost

More than \$100,000,000 is asked of taxpayers.



Degrades Wilderness Park

Years of unsightly grading, pollution and traffic.

Army Corps Proposes Massive Project

The proposed project would bulldoze 5 miles of sensitive habitat in the Wilderness Park, excavate 28,000 truck loads of soil (566,900 cu. yards), and armor creek banks with rock.

The enclosed information provides a summary of the project. We encourage you to join us in collaborating towards a more environmentally sensitive alternative that preserves the Wilderness Park's wildlife and scenic beauty.

1

PROJECT SUMMARY

Read about the proposal's enormous scale and cost.

2

HABITAT IMPACTS

Massive amounts of wildlife habitat would be removed.

3

ALTERNATIVE

Join us to push for a more sensible alternative

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project is located within Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and spans an approximately five-mile length of Aliso Creek. This is the most natural and habitat-rich section of Aliso Creek, with numerous sensitive, threatened and endangered wildlife. The northernmost boundary of the project is near Pacific Park Drive in Aliso Viejo and the southernmost boundary is near The Ranch at Laguna Beach golf course.

The Army Corps has identified creek instability, utility line protection, floodplain hydrology and riparian habitat as its rationale for its proposal. The project proposes to use heavy machinery to excavate, grade and recontour five miles of creek bed and creek banks. Excavation, grading and recontouring would be followed by installation of engineered structures (grouted and ungrouted rock riffles and bank armoring) to control creek flows and raise the creek bed.

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS

- 566,900 cubic yards excavated (equivalent to 28,345 tractor trailers of dirt)
- Five-miles of sensitive habitat/wildlife removed for excavation and grading
- 47 engineered rock rip rap/riffle structures between 9-inches and 6-feet height
- Rock and steel piling armoring along several sections of creek bank
- 300,000 cubic yards of dirt and debris dumped inside Wilderness Park
- Widening of creek profile and flood plain

SPECIFIC CONCERNS

Large-Scale Habitat and Wildlife Removal. The proposed project would remove an enormous amount of habitat and wildlife in the most sensitive area of Aliso Creek within Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. Dozens of species would be affected.

Scenic Degradation. This segment of Aliso Creek is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of annual Wilderness Park visitors. The proposed project's years of construction, bank armoring and other unsightly components would significantly reduce the scenic quality of this special area.

Taxpayer Cost. \$100,000,000 is the massive estimated cost of the project, with additional delays and cost overruns likely. There are better uses of taxpayer funds.

Over-Engineered, Huge Scale. Local cities, hydrologist experts, environmental organizations, ecologists, residents and many others have expressed opposition to the unnecessary size and impact of the project. The issues the project claims to address can be remedied with a far more cost-effective and environmentally-responsible approach.

LET'S SUPPORT A MORE SENSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

A broad coalition of cities, community groups, environmental organizations, hydrologists and environmental scientists are joining together to oppose the Army Corps project and propose a more responsible alternative based on the following tenets:

Reduce Overall Scale of Project, including Excavation, Grading and Disposal.

Limit Habitat and Wildlife Removal.

Protect Scenic Resources of Aliso Creek and the adjacent Wilderness Park.

Limit Creek Armoring, Rip Rap, Steel Pilings and Creek Bed Raising.

Provide Replacement/Mitigation of Temporary and Permanent Habitat Impacts.

Require Long Term Monitoring and Performance Guarantees.

Lower Cost to Taxpayers by Reducing Scale of Concept.

NEXT STEPS

An informational website will "Go Live" soon to help concerned organizations and citizens stay aware and organized. ***Details to follow.***

The Army Corps is holding a Public Comment Meeting regarding their Draft Environmental Impact Report on October 17th. This is a good opportunity to advocate for a more sensible project.

Aliso Creek – Draft Environmental Impact Report Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Laguna Hills Community Center and Sports Complex
Room-Heritage C
25555 Alicia Parkway
Laguna Hills, California

Tentatively Selected Plan



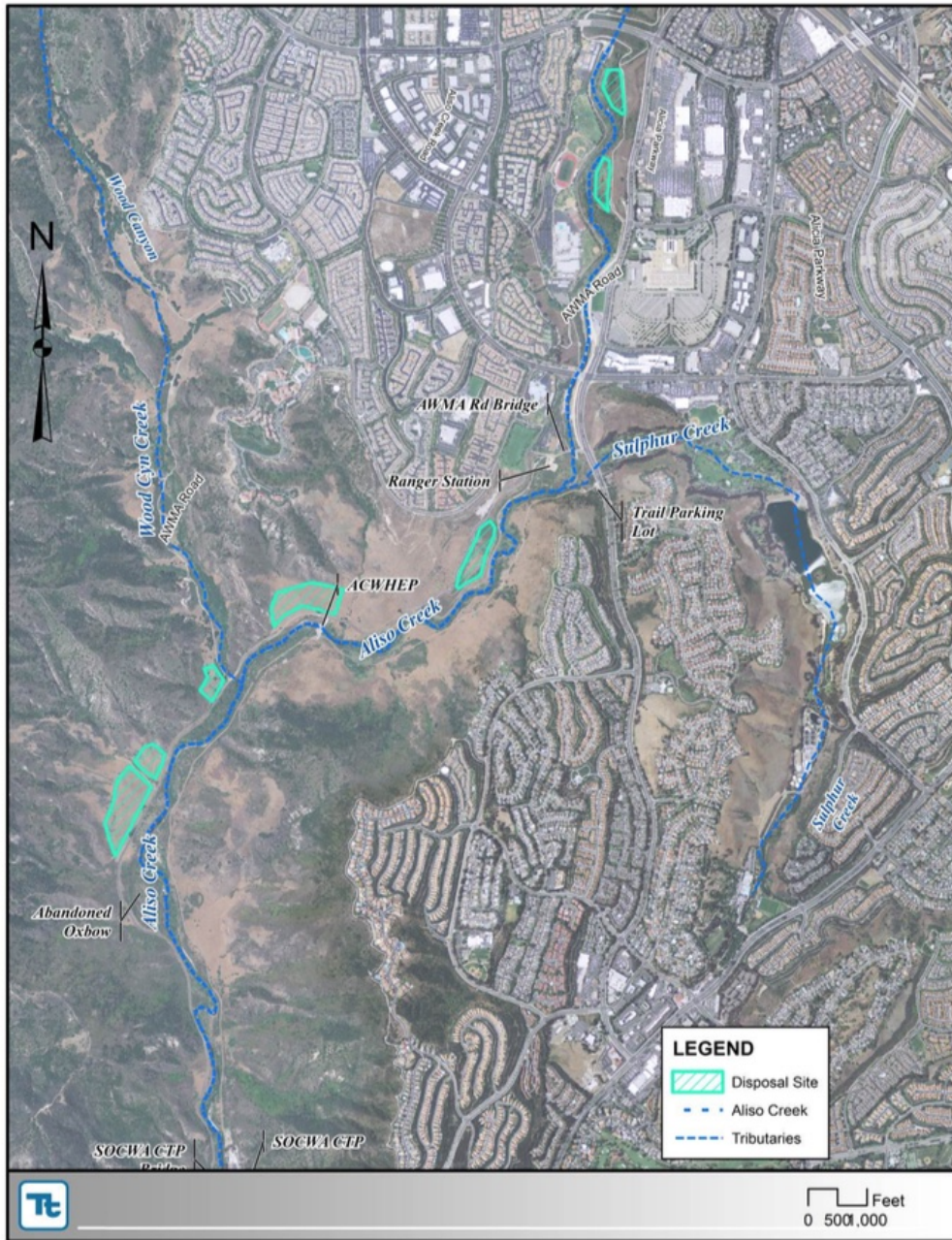


Figure 3.10 – Potential Disposal Sites for Excess Material

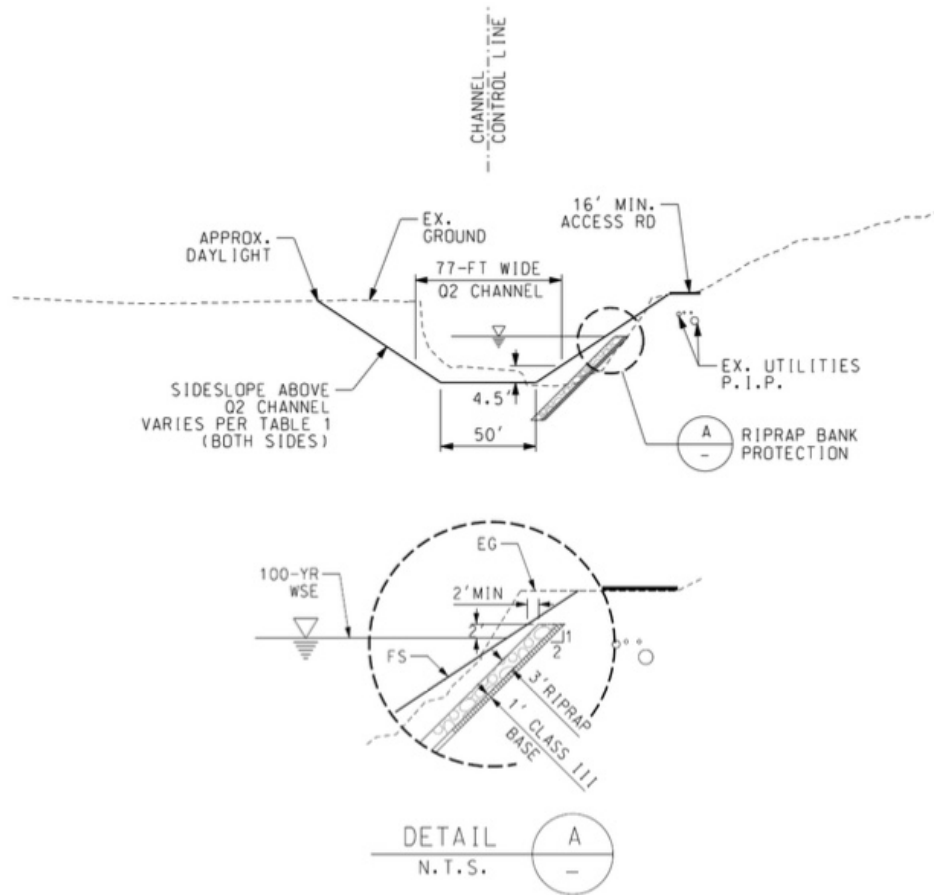


Figure 3.2 – Typical Channel Design Section at Bends (Alternative 2)