UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

March 30, 2009

Mr. David J. Castanon
Chief, Regulatory Division
Department of the Army
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Special Area Management Plan/Watershed Streambed Alteration Agreement Process for the San Diego Creek Watershed, Orange County, CA (CEQ # 20090049)

Dear Mr. Castanon:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the FEIS for the Special Area Management Plan/Watershed Streambed Alteration Agreement Process for the San Diego Creek Watershed (SAMP) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and under the authority of, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Federal Guidelines (Guidelines) promulgated at 40 CFR 230 under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The EPA thanks you and your staff for responding to our DEIS comments dated April 21, 2008 and for discussing our questions over the phone on March 23, 2009. We previously rated the DEIS as EC-2, Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information. Based on your written response to comments and our March 23rd discussion, we have no further concerns and find the FEIS to provide sufficient information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Paul Amato, the lead reviewer for this project. Paul can be reached at 415-972-3847 or amato.paul@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Goforth

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

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cc:
Cori Farrar, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory
Terri Dickerson, California Department of Fish and Game
Erinn Wilson, California Department of Fish and Game
Mark Adelson, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board