



ALISO CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

M2: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM

OCTA's M2 Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) provides comprehensive mitigation to offset the environmental impacts of the 13 Measure M2-funded freeway projects.

The EMP presents a comprehensive mitigation approach that provides not only replacement habitat, but also the opportunity to improve the overall functions and value of sensitive biological resources throughout Orange County.

Based on the evaluation of mitigation opportunities in the County, priority conservation areas were identified, including candidate parcels and properties that could be considered for wilderness preservation purposes. Properties were then selected for acquisition and restoration. These properties are protected to enhance wildlife connectivity, safeguard sensitive species and preserve substantial parcels of valuable habitat.

ABOUT ALISO CREEK

The Aliso Creek restoration project is located in the City of Aliso Viejo within the 4,000-acre Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, owned and operated by the County of Orange. The project, managed by the Laguna Canyon Foundation, takes place within and around Aliso Creek. The northernmost boundary of the project is Moulton Parkway and the project boundaries extend southward to approximately 500 feet south of the junction of Alicia Parkway and Avila Road.

The wilderness park is located near the Trabuco Creek Wildlife Linkage and is a part of the 19,000-acre Laguna Coast Greenbelt and the 38,000-acre Nature Preserve of Orange County. The restoration site contains the following general vegetation types:

- **Willow scrub**
- **Riparian woodland**
- **Coastal sage scrub**

The following listed and non-listed special status species have been reported from the wilderness park:

- **Least Bell's vireo**
- **Coastal California gnatcatcher**
- **Orange-throated whiptail**
- **Thread-leaved brodiaea**
- **Big-leaved crownbeard**
- **Catalina mariposa lily**
- **Western pond turtle**

The restoration goal is to improve habitat quality for riparian plants and wildlife species by increasing native habitat diversity, density, and structure within 55 acres of Aliso Creek and associated regions.



Western pond turtle