



AGUA CHINON AND BEE FLAT CANYONS 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 AGUA CHINON AND BEE FLAT CANYONS

The Agua Chinon and Bee Flat Canyons restoration project is located east of the city of Irvine in unincorporated Orange County. Although this was funded as one project, it involves restoring lands within two distinct geographical areas, Agua Chinon and Bee Flat Canyons.

The Agua Chinon mitigation site includes acreage owned by the OC Parks and The Irvine Company. The Bee Flat canyon site is owned by the OC Parks. Both sites are being managed by the Irvine Ranch Conservancy.

These restoration sites are within the Central and Coastal Subregion Habitat Reserve System created under the Orange County Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan.

The restoration sites are located within large areas of open space. The Cleveland National Forest is located east of the area, while there is commercial and residential development across State Route 241 to the west of the site. The restoration site contains the following general vegetation types:

- Grassland
- Coastal sage scrub
- Riparian

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

- Least Bell's vireo
- Coastal California gnatcatcher
- Orange-throated whiptail
- Coastal cactus wren
- Many-stemmed dudleya
- Intermediate mariposa lily

The restoration goal is to enhance degraded biological habitat areas in order to help protect these lands from invasive plant species and fire within 90 acres of Agua Chinon and Bee Flat Canyons.