



Orange County Transportation Authority Environmental Mitigation Program

August 5, 2026

Item Number 5 – OCTA M2 Conservation Plan 2025 Annual Report Overview





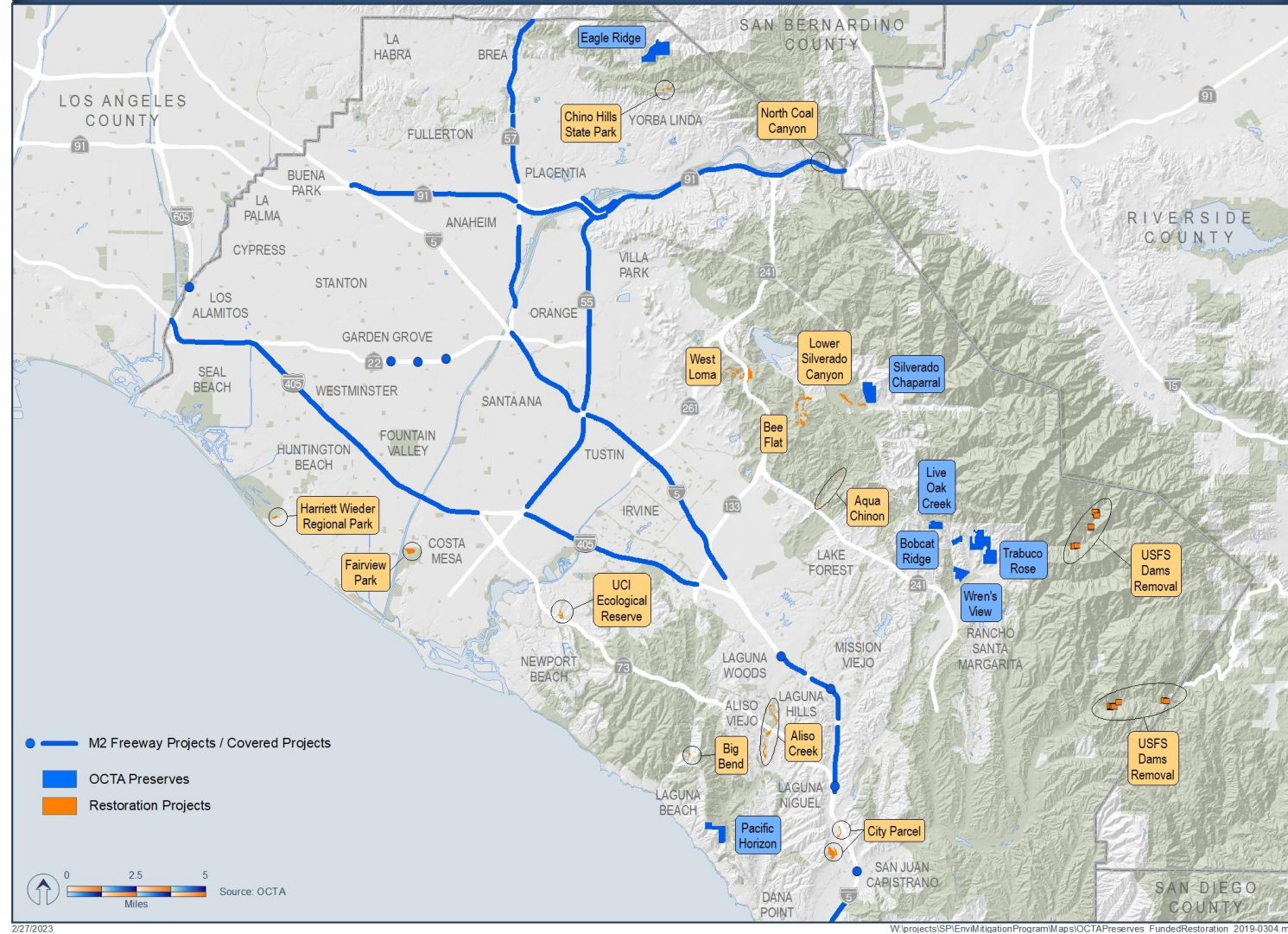
Environmental Mitigation Program Background

- 2006 Measure M2 (M2) renewal approved
- Innovative Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP)
 - Offsets biological impacts of 13 M2 freeway projects
 - Purchase of wilderness lands (Preserves)
 - Provide funding for habitat restoration
- Approximately five percent of the M2 freeway program revenue



Orange County Transportation Authority Projects, Preserves, and Restoration Projects

OCTA Preserves and Funded Restoration Projects



OCTA – Orange County
Transportation Authority

Environmental Mitigation Program Components



Conservation Plan

- Environmental documents

Clean Water Act Permits

Streamlined Permitting Through Partnerships With:

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- State and federal wildlife agencies
- State and federal regulatory agencies

Orange County Transportation Authority

M2 Conservation Plan Covered Species

BIRDS				
	COMMON NAME: Cactus wren	COMMON NAME: Coastal California gnatcatcher	COMMON NAME: Least Bell's vireo	COMMON NAME: Southwestern willow flycatcher
REPTILES				
	COMMON NAME: Coast horned lizard	COMMON NAME: Orangethroat whiptail	COMMON NAME: Western pond turtle	
PLANTS				
	COMMON NAME: Intermediate mariposa lily	COMMON NAME: Many-stemmed dudleya	COMMON NAME: Southern tarplant	
MAMMALS				
	COMMON NAME: Bobcat	COMMON NAME: Mountain lion		
FISH				
	COMMON NAME: Arroyo chub			



Photos courtesy of RECON Env.

Covers 2025 Activities

- Freeway project status/impacts
- Covered activities on preserves
- Progress of restoration projects
- Plan administration
- Endowment establishment
- Public outreach

Tracking Impacts from Covered Activities



Status of OCTA M2 Freeway Improvement Projects

- **Construction in 2025**
 - Project F: SR-55, I-405 to I-5
 - Project G: SR-57, Orangewood Avenue to Katella Avenue (Segment 1a)
 - Project I: SR-91, SR-55 to Lakeview Avenue (Segment 1)
 - Project M: I-605, Katella Avenue Interchange

No New Consistency Determinations

Tracking Impacts from Covered Activities (Cont.)

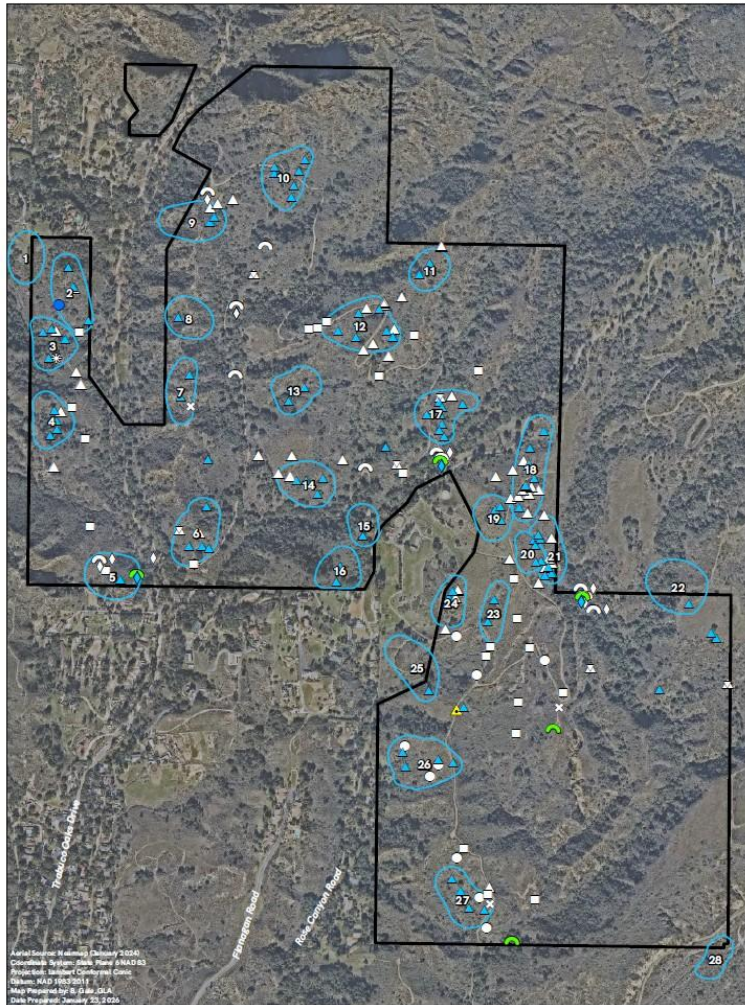
- **Ensure Habitat Impacts Stay within Caps**
 - 9.2 acres of impacts/cap of 141 acres
- **Maintain Rough Proportionality**
 - Big Bend
 - City Parcel
 - Bee Flat
 - University of California, Irvine Ecological Reserve
 - United States Forest Service (USFS) Dam Removal Project
 - Agua Chinon
 - Lower Silverado
 - West Loma
 - **Aliso Creek**
 - **North Coal Canyon**

Aliso Creek Restoration Project



Photos courtesy of Laguna Canyon Foundation

Preserve Updates – Focused Surveys



Covered Bird Species

Focused surveys for Coastal California gnatcatcher, coastal cactus wren, and least Bell's vireo were conducted on all Preserves containing suitable habitat.

Exhibit 3B - OCTA Covered/
Sensitive Animal Species Map

Trabuco Rose Preserve

Trabuco Rose Preserve

* OCTA Preserve Boundary
Data Source: OCTA (2023)

Current Monitoring Period

Covered Species

-  Mountain Lion
-  Bobcat
-  Coastal California Gnatcatcher
-  Coastal Cactus Wren
-  Coastal Cactus Wren Territory
-  Crotch's Bumblebee

Non-Covered Species

Previous Monitoring Periods

Covered Species

-  Mountain Lion
-  Bobcat
-  Orangethroat Whiptail
-  Coastal California Gnatcatcher
-  Coastal Cactus Wren
-  Territory not Determined

Non-Covered Species

-  Coastal Whiptail
-  San Diego Desert Woodrat



Covered Mammal Monitoring

- Assess wildlife movement and connectivity utilizing remote cameras
- Address movement of Covered Mammals within the Preserves and regionally
- **Mountain Lions at five of the seven Preserves**
- **Numerous collared lions (adults and subadults)**
- **Bobcats detected at all Preserves**





Preserve Updates – Ongoing Tasks

- Conduct focused surveys for OCTA covered plant species (2026)
- Invasive beetle detection and treatments
- Implement fire prevention, fencing, and public access maintenance
- Adaptive management addressing invasive species and fire recovery
- Continue to coordinate with neighboring properties on encroachments
- Continue survey work to verify, document, and mark all property boundaries



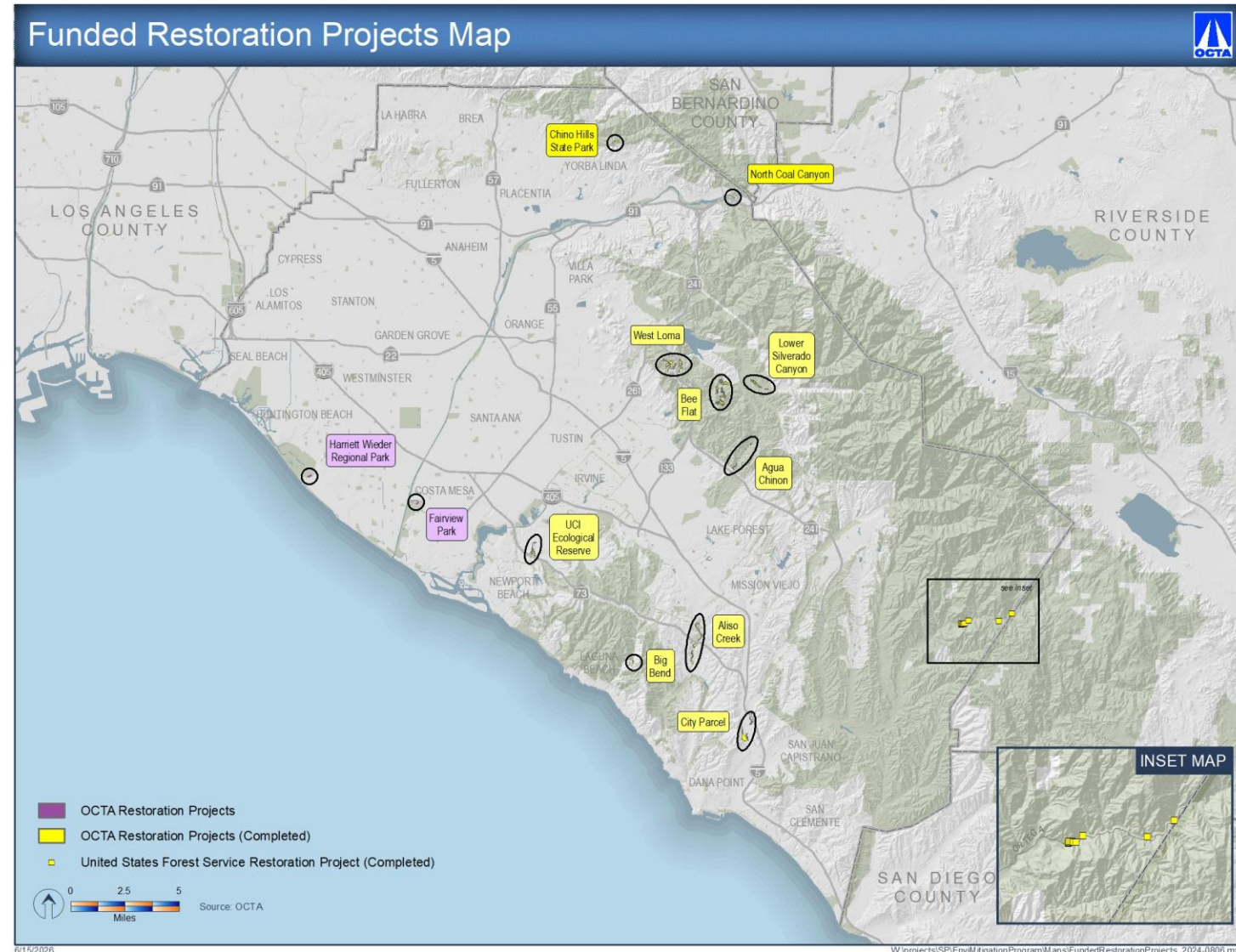
Orange County Transportation Authority Restoration Projects

Thirteen projects restoring
~350 acres of habitat

Eleven projects signed off by
the Wildlife Agencies

- Aliso Creek
- North Coal Canyon

Fairview Park amended to
include ten adjacent acres to
meet commitments



Two Covered Species with Special Conditions:

- Arroyo Chub: obligations met through USFS Dam Removal project
- Many-stemmed Dudleya: restoration underway at Pacific Horizon Preserve



Photo courtesy of RECON



Five Preserve Tours/Hikes

Continued Regional Coordination and Collaboration

- County of Orange Area Safety Task Force
- OC Emerging Tree Pests Group
- Caltrans
- Riverside Conservation Authority
- International Conference of Ecology and Transportation



Endowment

- Ensure Preserves are protected and meet Conservation Plan commitments
- Target of \$46.2 million set to fund long-term management
- Approximately \$3 million deposited in the endowment annually (10-12 years)
- OCTA remains on track to meet the endowment target in fiscal year 2027-28

OCTA will coordinate with the Wildlife Agencies on the analysis and determination of the permanent endowment funding requirements for each Preserve

In Summary

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- The background of the slide is a photograph of a scenic landscape. It shows a valley with green vegetation and some yellow wildflowers in the foreground. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds.
- Meeting commitments
 - Continue with program tracking
 - Follow resource management plans
 - Assess evolving needs
 - Develop long term management strategy