



SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001688

MEETING DATE: 08/11/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): Board of Supervisors
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Vice Chair Katrina Foley
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): District 5 Office, katrina.foley@bos5.oc.gov
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SUBJECT: Approve Pilot Project for Manual and Mechanical Vegetation Removal in Fifth District Portions of Aliso Creek Channel

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
N/A	No Legal Objection	DISCUSSION
		3 Votes Board Majority

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve pilot project expansion by OC Public Works to evaluate manual and mechanical removal methods of vegetation in the Fifth District Portions of Aliso Creek channel as part of a broader effort to reduce chemical use in Orange County waterways; and direct OC Public Works to return to the Board with results within one year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The County of Orange manages flood control channels, parks, trails, roadsides, landfills, public facilities, and open space areas that require regular vegetation management. This work protects public safety, flood control, wildfire prevention, infrastructure, habitat, and erosion control.

At the June 9, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Board approved a pilot project conducted by OC Public Works to evaluate manual and mechanical removal methods of vegetation in the San Juan and Trabuco Creek channels as part of a broader effort to reduce chemical use in Orange County waterways.

The San Juan and Trabuco Creek pilot project aims to utilize manual and mechanical vegetation management in place of herbicide spraying to maintain flood control capacity. The project evaluates feasibility and cost over a one-year period. Simultaneously, OC Public Works conducts an additional study

to identify areas where vegetation should remain or be restored to support erosion control, slope stability, water quality, habitat protection, and native plant recovery.

This item expands the scope of the San Juan and Trabuco Creek pilot project to include the Aliso Creek channel located within the Fifth District. The City of Laguna Beach maintains the city-managed portion of Aliso Creek through manual and mechanical removal. Adding the County-managed portions of Aliso Creek within the Fifth District to the pilot aligns County vegetation management with current practices along the city-managed portions, creating a more cohesive approach to vegetation management throughout Aliso Creek.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Aliso Creek Channel Map